THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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MIDLANDS
ZONE

JULY 2019 ISSUE 267

THE HOTTEST SWIMWEAR TRENDS THIS SUMMER!

SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

+

GAY SCENE IN PICTURES + WHAT'S ON

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JULY 2019

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Black Country win for Bar Diva

Dudley's Bar Diva has been awarded the Best LGBTQ Event/Venue Award in the first ever Black Country Music Awards, held at Wolverhampton's ICB on Friday 21 June.

The venue fought off stiff competition from Walsall's Lion Bar, Wolverhampton's Gorgeous, Wolverhampton Pride and Darlaston's Greenhouse.

The awards aim to shine a light on 'unrivalled venues, exceptional artists and songwriters, promoters and producers', as well as identifying the region's best singles, albums, videos and much more.

Commenting in the win, Bar Diva's owners said: "Jason and Randle, aka Miss Annie, would like to thank everyone who voted for us in the Black Country Music Awards. All we can say is that we are totally overwhelmed to have won the award such a short time after winning silver in the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards for 'best gay bar outside of Birmingham'."

APPEAL AFTER £5K PRIDE LOSS

Trustees of Coventry Pride have launched a crowdfunding appeal due to a £5,000 shortfall following the 2019 event.

In a recent announcement on the Coventry Pride website, organisers said that, despite budget cuts and at times heavy rain, they'd still managed to stage a 'great Pride' thanks to 'the goodwill of the fantastic acts and supporters'. The statement continued with the worrying news that the current position wasn't sustainable without a cash injection. It further reported that a crowdfunding appeal had been launched to enable future Pride festivals in Coventry to remain free.
Coventry Pride is a registered charity.
To donate, visit localgiving.org/keepcovpridefree

John Partridge back in the Midlands

Former EastEnders favourite John Partridge will take on the role of Emcee when hit musical Cabaret visits the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn in the autumn.
The show, which features iconic songs including Money Makes The World Go Round, Maybe This Time and the title track itself, is helmed by the National Theatre's Artistic Director, Rufus Norris. It visits the Grand from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 September, and then stops off at Theatre Severn from Tuesday 22 to Saturday 26 October.
Tickets for the production are now on sale. Visit the respective venues' websites for further information.

Keep Dancing at The Yard in Coventry

Dancing shoes at the ready - The Yard in Coventry is on the lookout for people to take part in its second Coventry Does Strictly LGBT+ event in October. The only LGBT+ dance competition outside of London, the event was deemed a great success in 2018 and this year hopes to raise plenty of funds for the Terrence Higgins Trust.
So if you're a Craig Revel Horwood or Darcy Bussell wannabe, you can request an application form by writing to info@theyardcoventry.co.uk or jefferiesmark1@sky.com.

Have ya heard?

Top marks for Top Gear...

The BBC's Top Gear programme has shown its support for LGBT rights by spraying in rainbow colours two cars which it had used when filming in Brunei, the country which recently imposed the penalty of 'death by stoning' for acts of homosexuality.

The programme filmed in Brunei prior to the change in the law, which the country's leader, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, has since said will not be enforced. To show their support for LGBT people, Top Gear's producers decided to spray the cars used in the film in the colours of the rainbow flag and display them on air later in the new series, which started on BBC Two last month.

Speaking to the Guardian, one of the show's presenters, former cricketer Freddie Flintoff, said: "In the last couple of months we have thought very hard about dropping the film entirely, but we shot it before the change in the law, and both the Gurkhas and other Bruneians worked incredibly hard to make it happen. We don't want all their efforts to be for nothing. So we've decided to go ahead and show it (and) we've given the cars a little makeover."

Are You Proud? Yes we are!

A new documentary marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the subsequent gay liberation movement is to be released in cinemas late this month (26 July).

Are You Proud? meets key campaigners and investigates the organisations and events that have contributed to the LGBTQ+ liberation movement, focusing in particular on the history of Pride in the UK.

The film celebrates the progress made, whist also exploring questions about the continuing relevance of the Pride march, and highlighting the international battles still to be fought.

Combining archive footage, interviews, vox pops and reportage, the movie meets founders of the Gay Liberation Front, founding members of the UK's Stonewall charity, the organisers of various Pride marches across the UK, and groups such as Black Pride, Trans Pride Brighton and Queer Picnic. It also provides a timely reminder that 'there are an increasing number of people out there who feel emboldened in hating queers'.

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Birmingham LGBT

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SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

Eden owners Garry and Cal under threat from property developers

The future of Eden Bar, one of Birmingham gay village's most popular LGBT venues, is shrouded in uncertainty after details emerged of plans to build apartments nearby.

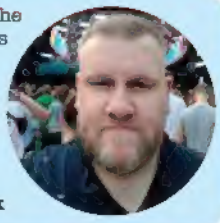
Ever since the initial announcement in May, Midlands Zone has been urging the local community to voice its support for Eden and its owners, Garry and Cal.

An urgent meeting with Birmingham City Council will take place on **Saturday 29 June at Eden Bar** - where there has been a rallying call for those who support the Birmingham Gay Village to attend and help Garry and Cal..

Check our website and our Midlands Zone social media for more updates!

READERS OUTRAGED BY VENUE CLOSURE THREAT

Here are just a few of the comments from our website and social media...



Eden bar, amongst the LGBT+ community is known as a safe space for multiculturalism in the community... don't take it away from us.
Gareth McCormack

Housing "for the many" at the cost of our individuality, free expression and heritage.
Gary Richardson

Eden bar is where I got married 7 years ago. I sing karaoke on Fridays. This place is the best place to go. I would defend it to the hills.
Benjamin Samuel

It's a vital and integral part of the community, which will leave an irreplaceable void, if it were to disappear.
Jonathan Tracey

There is no way I'm going to hold my husband's hand up Broad Street, as we're likely to have our heads kicked in or worse. We need our safe spaces, we need our gay village. We must fight to preserve it.
Stephen Alexander Gamble

It baffles me why anyone would even want to live in that side of town, living in a gay village is just horrendous.. The clubs and pubs are nothing compared to all those screaming queens kicking off every night.
Stuart Wade-Mace

Any development approved must be designed to support and enhance the community, and ensure future Pride festivals can still be accommodated.
Adrian Gill

The marquee will have to close and the bar too because of complaints from residents. Boltz too likely. Eden is going to be surrounded by four to five stories on each side..
Unsympathetic and unnecessary development all over Birmingham City centre is killing off great areas.
Rúaidhrí Séamus O'Briain

The area around there desperately needs renovating but 5000 apartments which are usually the size of a shoebox? Traffic down there crawls in rush hour, it's gonna be fun in future.
David Inwood

To submit your views/objections, go to: www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/rea-valley-spd/consultation/intro/

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QUEER PROM

The UK's first Queer Prom makes its Birmingham debut at the iconic Nightingale Club

Dedicated to providing the LGBTQ+ community with the prom night that they always wanted but never had, Queer Prom is a new concept offering the chance to re-address a 'rite of passage' for young people. At Queer Prom, everyone - no matter their age, gender, sexuality, race and background - has the chance to rewrite their prom experience and attend an inclusive event designed *for them*, where they can be who they are and be with who they want to be with, without either fear or discrimination...

QUEER PROM

Organiser Vicki Cook talks about Queer Prom, which comes to Birmingham's Gay Village this month

Prom – an American tradition that's become widely recognised here in the UK as a celebration marking the end of senior school – conjures up for many teenagers images of beautiful dresses, prom dates and having a ball with friends. For many in our community, however, it's a time of sheer dread, the assumption being that we will conform to expectations and conventions that simply don't suit us.

While a few have the confidence to be who they really are at prom, there are a number of students who feel they can't be true to themselves. They either turn up and have a miserable time or opt out completely.

If you were one of the latter and fancy giving it another go – this time with the freedom to be who you really are – then, check out Queer Prom, which is coming to The Nightingale this month following sold-out events in Brighton, London and Bristol.

The person behind the Queer Prom initiative is Brighton-based Vicki Cook (pictured left), who came up with the concept in 2014.

"I was speaking to a group of friends, and we were just having a conversation about our experiences of school and prom. No one I was speaking to had had a positive experience of prom. Most people hadn't gone because they were afraid to go – either because they felt they couldn't go as their true self or with their same-gender partner. Some people were trans, but they weren't out at school, so they didn't feel comfortable going. We ended up thinking how amazing it would be if there was a queer prom that we could go to, so I decided to make it happen. The first event, back in 2014 for Brighton Pride, was really well received, but I just kind of stepped away from it for a few years. Then I decided to revamp it and bring it back in January 2018, again in Brighton."

Since then, Queer Prom has returned to Brighton and has also taken place in London and Bristol. As well as its July date in Birmingham, the event will also make its debut in Manchester this August, with other locations across the UK also in the pipeline.

Queer Prom is what it says on the tin, as Vicki explains: "It's everything you see in a kind of high school 'American sweetheart'-type prom, except that it's queered up and made into an accessible and safe space for the LGBTQ+ community. We're basically reclaiming prom. I read somewhere that proms were originally set up in America as a way of tackling homosexuality and reinforcing the idea of heterosexual norms. The idea is to take that back and make it queer and inclusive of everyone. It's basically everything you see in a '80s rom-com that involves prom, but catering for the queer community. We have queer cabaret, we have drag artists, and every venue we go to we decorate as if it were prom. There'll be a photobooth where people can get a picture of themselves with their friends or their partners, and they can take that away with them and replace the old prom photo they had back in school that just doesn't fit with who they are. It looks exactly like prom and how you would imagine a prom to look. Feedback so far has been amazing and very touching."

Looking forward, Vicki would like to take Queer Prom to smaller or more rural towns that wouldn't necessarily facilitate the LGBTQ community. Events are currently targeting the 18-plus demographic, but this is something that organisers are looking at, very much recognising the need for under-18s to share the experience as well. Currently the age range of those enjoying Queer Prom extends to people in their 60s and 70s, which Vicki reckons is "probably one of the most diverse audiences that I've seen in terms of age range".

So what sells Queer Prom?

"It's a way of reclaiming a negative experience that you might have had going to your own prom – or that feeling of wanting to go to a prom but never having access to it. It's an event where the entire night caters for the queer community. You can come as you want. You can bring who you want. You can be who you are without any judgement or discrimination. You can have the prom experience that you always wanted. You can go and buy a prom dress from a charity shop or just wear exactly what you would've wanted to wear when you were in school and wanting to attend prom."

At the time of going to print, performers confirmed for Queer Prom include Yshee Black, House of Allure, Donna Trump, Romeo De La Cruz, Jada Love & Zayn Phaine.

Queer Prom Birmingham: Summer Ball takes place at the Nightingale Club on Friday 12 July. Doors open at 7pm and tickets, priced from £8, can be purchased via outsavvy.com.

> When I first went to prom, it was completely unremarkable. I followed the rules, I wore a man's suit, danced tomusic I didn't like and did everything I could to fit in. If I were to go now, I would express my femininity with unabashed freedom.

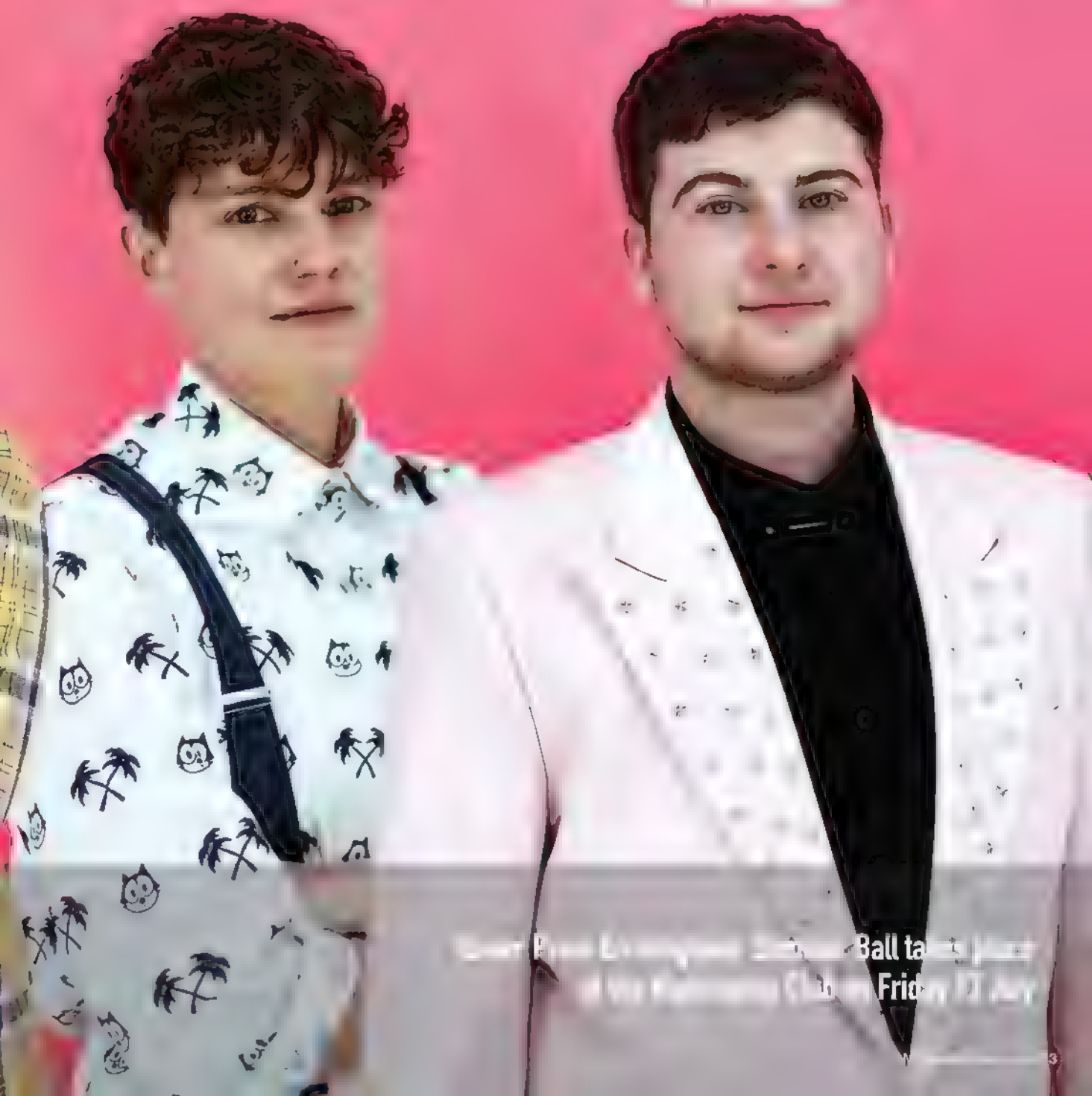
> I was incredibly fortunate to have a supportive gang of friends who would probably have been disappointed if I'd turned up to prom in anything resembling 'normal'.

PROM STORIES

QUEERPROM

"The thought of being forced into a dress and having to go with a boy to the prom was actually my worst nightmare. So I just had an 'alternative prom' with my friend Steve... I guess it was a bit like queer prom but unlabelled."

"My high school prom would've been the last time anyone saw me with long hair and a dress on. I've always wanted to stand out, but before I came out, I was making myself stand out for the wrong reasons. Being at prom, even being complimented so much looking the way I did, didn't feel right. I felt like a stranger among people I'd known forever."



Ball ta
Fri

Chesterfield Pride is back bigger and better than before

With this year's Chesterfield Pride featuring not one but two stages, there's every chance the 2019 attendance figure will beat last year's total of 5,000-plus.

Taking place in the town's Stand Road Park on Sunday 21 July, the festival features headliners including '80s pop star Sonia, Freemasons diva Katherine Ellis and dance legend Shena, who has eight top-40 hits under her belt, including The Weekend, Watch Out and There's Nothing I Won't Do.

Also appearing on the main stage will be X Factor favourite Sami Brookes, Britain's Got Talent acts Rob King & Bosom Buddies, plus Pride favourites Kelly Wilde and Wolf.

Chesterfield Pride's second stage is a must for anybody who loves cabaret, and will feature performances by drag favourites Divina De Campo and KY Kelly alongside a line-up of talented local performers.

Entry to Pride is free (with donations towards running costs gratefully received).

Full details are available at **facebook.com/chesterfieldpride** and **chesterfieldpride.co.uk**

SUMMER OF PRIDE JULY 2019

Pride in London
Saturday 6 July
Trafalgar Square
prideinlondon.org

Sparkle Weekend
Fri 12 - Sun 14 July
Sackville Gardens, Manchester
sparkle.org.uk

Bristol Pride
Saturday 13 July
The Downs, Bristol
bristolpride.co.uk

Rotherham Pride
Saturday 13 July
Clifton Park Bandstand
rotherhampride.co.uk

Worksop Pride
Saturday 13 July
Worksop
worksoppride.co.uk

Croydon Pride
Saturday 13 July
Wandle Park
Croydon
croydonpride.org.uk

Worthing Pride
Saturday 13 July
Beach House grounds
Worthing
worthingpride.co.uk

L Fest
Friday 19 - Sunday 21 July
Bodafon Farm, Llandudno
lfest.co.uk

Pride in Hull
Saturday 20 July
Queens Gardens, Hull
prideinhull.co.uk

Pride In Sheffield
Saturday 27 July
Endcliffe Park, Sheffield
prideinsheffield.net

Norwich Pride
Saturday 27 July
The Forum
norwichpride.org.uk

Nottinghamshire Pride
Saturday 27 July
Nottingham City Centre
nottinghamshirepride.co.uk

Weston-Super-Mare Pride
Saturday 27 - Sunday 28 July
Grove Park
wsmpride.com

Stockport Pride
Sunday 28 July
Stockport Market Place
stockportpride.co.uk

Nottinghamshire Pride makes a welcome return

Nottinghamshire Pride returns to the city centre on Saturday 27 July with the theme of You Are Enough.
Local comedy cabaret performers Scream Queenz host the main stage, with other featured acts including drag queens Kitty Tray and Kitten T.

Full details are available at **facebook.com/nottspride** and **nottinghamshirepride.co.uk**

Malvern hosts its first Pride festival

NEW FOR 2019!

Malvern hosts its first Pride event at Priory Park on Saturday 27 July.

The event will feature a wide range of entertainment, from Ya Ya Logic, drag queen Miss Marty and life coach Char Bailey to face painting and glitter artists.

There will also be a range of stalls, from food trucks to local businesses, with plenty for the kids to enjoy too.

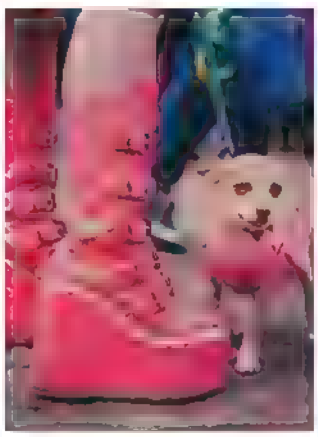
Full details available at **facebook.com/malvernpride** and **malvernpride.org**

COVENTRY Pride

PHOTO SPECIAL

After the rain, comes a rainbow, and there were plenty of those at this year's Coventry Pride. The city centre was filled with colour and laughter as the pride parade made its way through the city centre.

Whilst over at LGBT venue The Yard drew in the crowds for their Pride At The Yard event with headliner Nadine Coyle.



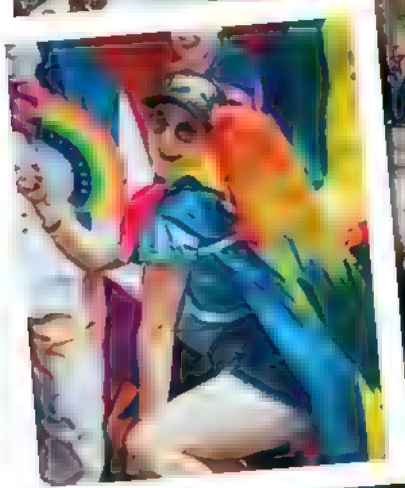
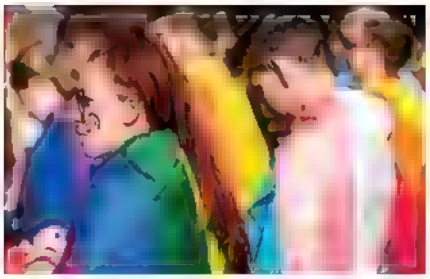


Photo credits - Coventry Pride, Dylan Parrin



COVENTRY PRIDE AT THE YARD with headliner Nadine Coyle

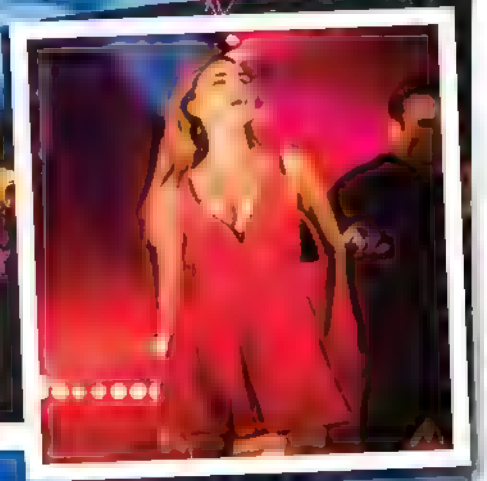
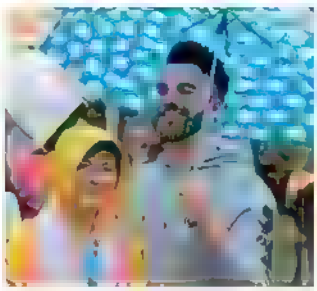


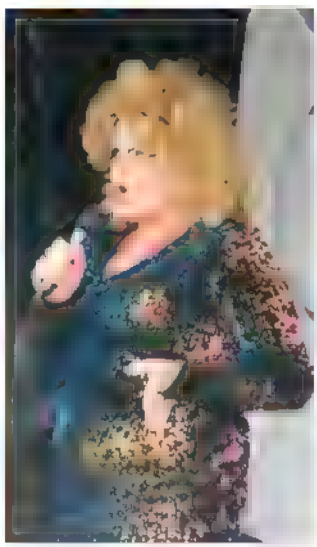
Photo credits - The Yard, Edward Taylor

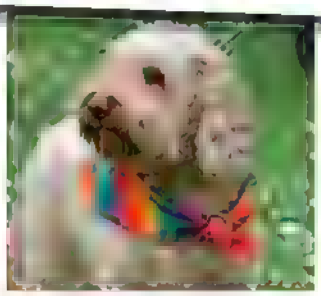
Stoke-on-Trent PRIDE 15th June 2019

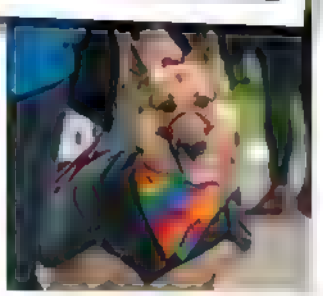
PHOTO SPECIAL

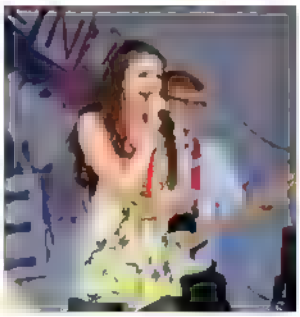
An impressive 8,000 people turned up to show their support for and take part in this year's Stoke-on-Trent Pride. With acts including Allan Jay, Dan Budd and Sami Brookes taking to the stage, and with more than 1,000 people attending the Pride Parade, it's fair to say the fine folk of The Potteries didn't let the lousy weather dampen their spirits at all!











Summer loving?

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by Gudrun

It's in her kiss

A kiss is a beautiful thing. I say that with confidence but can't say I really understand kissing. How did evolution come up with the idea of humans touching lips in the first place?

Did the best French kissing lead to the survival of the fittest? Apart from a couple of bunnies touching noses for cutesy Easter cards, does any other animal have kissing as part of their coupling agenda?

I'm not sure they do. Or maybe flies have a quick snog when no-one is looking? Do chimps lock lips just as soon as David Attenborough looks the other way? What would be the point of any other species adding kissing to their repertoire?

Anyway, despite it seemingly being only a human thing, kissing means a lot to us. It's a great greeting, demonstrating trust and closeness. And a great loving thing between partners. During sex, it helps to pass the time during some of the duller moments.

The intimate and loving nature of kissing means that it's particularly sad and poignant that it was a kiss which led to two women being taunted and beaten on a London bus recently

After an evening out together, it was reported that Melania and Chris shared a kiss while they journeyed home, you know, because they liked each other and felt affectionate. That's all. No big deal.

A group of male teenagers saw the kiss and decided to use the situation for their own entertainment. They tried to cajole the couple into kissing again, so that they could watch, and threw coins at them. The verbal abuse and goading switched to physical violence, and both women ended up with bloodied faces. Melania has a broken nose

There have been many occasions in this column when I've talked about how things have improved for the gay community, and I stand by that - there have been many changes to how we're allowed to live our lives, and many more protections are now in place in case things go wrong.

"HOMOPHOBIC IDIOTS ARE POTENTIALLY EVERYWHERE AND ANYWHERE"

However, an event such as this is a reminder that, even though the general direction is positive, there are still times when we take backwards steps. That

there are still idiots around who think that it's okay to verbally and physically abuse fellow human beings merely because they are gay, just shows that we can never rest on our laurels. That this happened in London, ostensibly one of the most liberal cities in the world, and not in the 'backwater provinces', is a reminder that homophobic idiots are potentially everywhere and anywhere

No good has ever come from one group of people violently attacking a vulnerable group of people. It is a cowardly act that's ultimately entirely pointless.

However, Melania and Chris have been brave enough to be publicly open about what happened to them, and a photograph of the two of them covered in blood on that night bus has sparked a particularly large response. We, as members of the gay community, may ultimately benefit from the reminder that we still can't assume that we're completely safe from attack, wherever we are. The photograph is an especially good reminder to everyone else that the war against homophobia is still not over, even in our capital city. I wish that these reminders were not still necessary.

There have been arrests since the attack on the women, and I hope that this leads to some form of justice for them.

Our thoughts are with Melania and Chris for a quick physical recovery. But most of all, I hope that they're not letting what happened on the night bus stop them from kissing - wherever the fancy takes them.

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West Midlands Railway

We love it here

ON THE BALL
with
Steve Ball

Straight Pride? REALLY?

Heterosexuals should be grateful they don't need a Pride...

Last month people celebrated Pride with carnivals and street parties across the world.

But one Pride celebration has caused lively debate on social media. A group in Boston in the US called Super Happy Fun America has applied to the city government to hold a 'straight Pride' march in August.

The organisers' website states that "Straight people are an oppressed majority. We will fight for the right of straights everywhere to express pride in themselves without fear of judgement and hate".

I don't know about you, but I'm not aware of "judgement and hate" oppressing straight guys. I'm not aware of families throwing them out or the police raiding straight bars, invading their privacy and locking them up for merely existing. Straight people don't think twice about holding hands in public - unlike our own community, where more than two thirds of LGBT people say that they've had to avoid holding hands with a same sex partner for fear of a negative reaction from others.

Homophobic and transphobic hate crimes have more than doubled in England and Wales in the last five years. In the most recent year of available data, police recorded 11,600 such crimes.

OVER 11,600 HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC HATE CRIMES RECORDED IN JUST ONE YEAR

These findings came to light as a lesbian couple were hospitalised with facial injuries after being attacked when they kissed on a night bus in north London. They were attacked by a group of four men, who punched both of them in the face until they were covered in blood.

The following week, two actors were attacked on their way to a theatre performance in Southampton, in what was described as a "cowardly homophobic hate crime". Lucy Jane Parkinson and Rebecca Banatvala were starring in Rotterdam - recently performed in Birmingham, Leicester and Malvern - a comedy about gender and sexuality which tells the story of a young gay woman. The final two performances were cancelled as a result.

These incidents highlight the importance of gay Pride events. Prides enable LGBT people to be seen as normal, regular and visible, not something to be feared or attacked. At this time of increasing division, Pride festivals help to promote a culture of tolerance, inclusivity and civic pride.

Pride matters because it reminds people that we exist. Straight Pride? I don't think so. Heterosexuals should be grateful they don't need one.

HOMOPHOBIC

In a recent analysis released in June 2019, the Guardian newspaper found that homophobic and transphobic hate crimes have surged in the past five years.

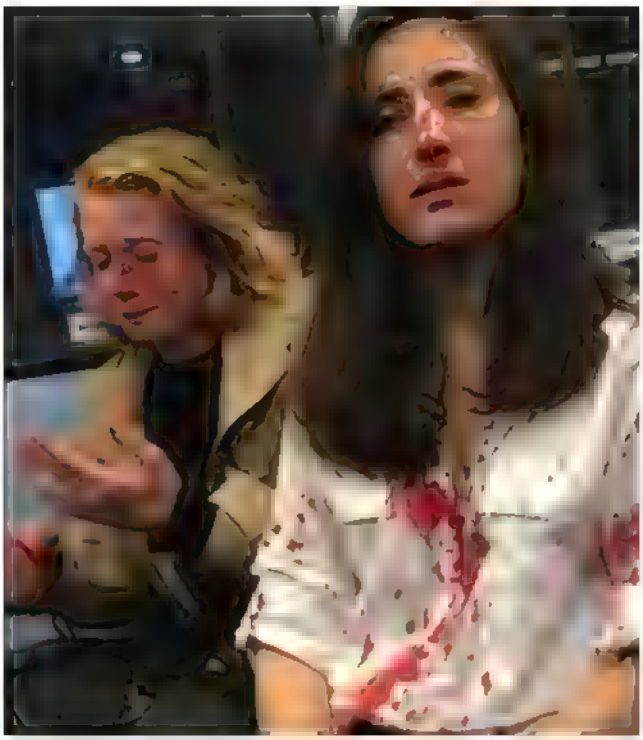
Since 2014, offences against gay and lesbian people have doubled, and trebled against trans people.

And just in the last couple of months there definitely appears to be a surge in LGBTQ attacks, many unprovoked, both nationally and locally across the Midlands region.

Here are just some of the other shocking facts behind the rise in homophobic and transphobic attacks in the UK.

CCTV images of two men following what's believed by police to have been a homophobic assault in Nottingham city centre.

Bradley Hunt reported he had been attacked several times in Warwickshire - once given a panic alarm by the police



Melania Geymonat (R) and her girlfriend, Chris, after the attack on a bus in West Hampstead in London.

Two actors starring in a show that recently visited Birmingham were targeted in a homophobic attack in Southampton

Joe Anderson
@mayor_anderson
So angry & ashamed that an openly homophobic attack on two men has happened in my City & that three young men carried it out. Please,please help the Police identify those responsible, let's show that Anfield & Liverpool will not tolerate hate Love to all in the LGBT community
985 3:30 PM - Jun 23, 2019

Mayor of Liverpool speaks out against recent homophobic crime

ATTACKS UP

FACING THE FACTS: LGBT HATE CRIME ON THE RISE

[redacted] have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.

THREE IN TEN LGBT PEOPLE (29%) avoid certain streets because they do not feel safe there as an LGBT person.

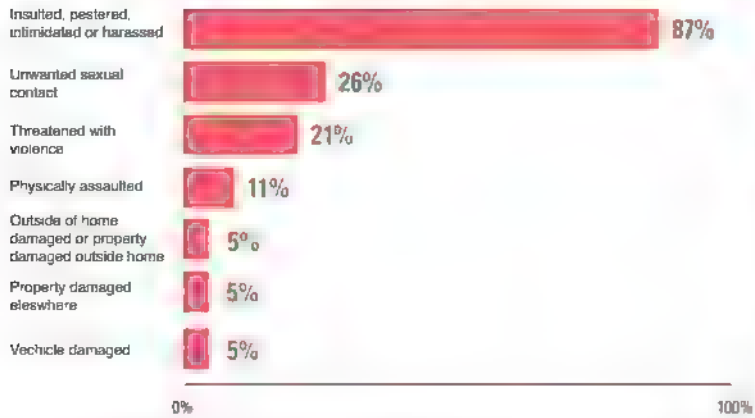
STONEWALL LGBT IN BRITAIN: HATE CRIME AND DISCRIMINATION (2017)

ONE IN TEN LGBT PEOPLE (10%) have experienced homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse online directed towards them personally in the last month.

STONEWALL LGBT IN BRITAIN: HATE CRIME AND DISCRIMINATION (2017)

A THIRD OF BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC LGBT PEOPLE (34%) [redacted] crime or incident based on their sexual orientation and/or [redacted] compared to one in five white [redacted]

LGBT people who have experienced a hate crime or incident due to being LGBT in the past 12 months



Types of hate incidents LGBT people have been afected by in the last year because of their sexual orientation or gender identity

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AT GREATEST RISK

56% of trans young people aged 18 to 24 and 33% of LGB people aged 18 to 24 who aren't trans have experienced a hate crime or incident based on their gender identity and/or sexual orientation in the last year.

STONEWALL LGBT IN BRITAIN: HATE CRIME AND DISCRIMINATION (2017)

THIS GAY LIFE:
The Stephen Spinks Column

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

After three years of writing for Midlands Zone, Stephen Spinks bids farewell...

I'm feeling nostalgic. It's hard not to after all this time Yet someone once said, get out while the going is good - and the going is indeed good. So after three thoroughly enjoyable years of writing my column, I've decided it's time to hang up my pen and pass the baton to some other person who might, as I was, be itching to commit their thoughts to print. The timing feels right.

A CHANCE TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS

I never expected to contribute to Zone, yet by pure chance the opportunity came along to write for it. The editor's call for fledging writers was something I just knew I had to answer. I felt I had so much to say, and say it I did. From the attack at the Pulse nightclub in America, raising sexual health awareness, adding a voice to chemsex and talking through my own journey with PrEP, to gay marriage, the celluloid screen, copious volumes of LGBTQ literature, gays & religion and much more besides, I hope in some small way that I've shared my world, my thoughts and my calls to action with each of you.

My message, repeated time and again, has ultimately been a simple one: that we should love one another rather more for our shared differences - because in our differences, as much as in our commonality, is our true unity, which at times we fail to see.

> "Birmingham gay village itself is under threat from developers and local and city councillors who are set on the regeneration of the city, seemingly at any cost."

The LGBTQ community can be a divided place. Old or young, fat or thin, masc or femme, by seeing beyond our self given titles, we have the inherent right to invent our own rulebook. It's one of our abiding strengths, and when we remember that and come together, our community achieves the most wonderful things. Love, after all, is love, and if we take the time to love one another and unite together, we are unstoppable. Martha P Johnson and many others at the Stonewall Inn proved that very thing some 50 years ago. Their legacy lives on in all of us. But have we each grasped the baton yet?

[illegible]

The need to unite is now more pressing than ever. Equality is threatened by a counter-revolution. The horrific attack on Melania Geymont and Chris on the N31 bus to Camden a few weeks ago made headlines around the world. It was perpetrated by a group of homophobic youths who felt empowered to taunt, ridicule and physically abuse two women

> **UGLY TRUTH:** instances of homophobic attacks are increasing at an alarming rate, both here and in cities around the globe.

on their way home from a date who did nothing more than refuse to kiss one another for them. As international condemnation of the attack rolled in - a sign of changing times in some quarters at least - both women were inadvertently outed in their native countries as a result of the media coverage. Chris herself still prefers to keep her surname out of the press, to mitigate the damage. It's a sad story indeed.

THE UGLY TRUTH

As we celebrated Pride month, the newspapers were awash with worrying stats to back up an ugly truth; instances of homophobic attacks are increasing at an alarming rate, both here and in cities around the globe.

The world too is in danger of falling on its arse. Politicians of every political colour have abandoned their sense of reason, choosing party politics over national interest, and Brexit has deeply divided our nation - and seemingly given some people the false belief that they can exercise their opinions, however extreme, in any unrestrained way they see fit, irrespective of the emotional or physical consequences.

Sat on the number 50 bus only yesterday in the middle of the day, I witnessed a man in his 30s verbally and physically abusing anyone who believed in Allah. It was unprovoked, uneducated and unbridled, and unsettled everyone on board, all of whom, until then, had been quietly going about their own business, existing harmoniously within the richly diverse and vibrant city culture that we should and do celebrate here in Birmingham.

LGBTQ PEOPLE ARE STILL AT RISK

Our LGBTQ community remains under fire, and things are set to get worse. If it wasn't for recent international pressure, LGBTQ people in Brunei would now be faced with being stoned to death by the so-called legitimate rule of law. Yet although this law has been rescinded, LGBTQ people within that country remain far from safe, their lives continuing to be at risk.

The basic human rights of those in many developing countries around the globe remain dangerously absent, with individuals reduced to living their lives in constant fear. Even in places like Russia, members of our community are at risk every day of being beaten, imprisoned or cast out, simply because of who they happen to love.

While we in the mainland UK have won many of our basic human rights, we need to remember that even in Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, LGBTQ people do not yet have the right to marry. The politics of hate is still winning the day there.

GAY VILLAGE UNDER THREAT

On our very own doorstep in Birmingham, the gay village itself is under threat from developers and local and city councillors who are set on the regeneration of the city, seemingly at any cost. The motto of Birmingham is 'Forward', and over the years, as the city has undergone a multi-million pound facelift, rising like a phoenix out of the ashes, some of that regeneration has come at great cost to culture and heritage. Gentrification and economic investment often go hand in hand, with those who had previously occupied these brown sites being forced out through higher rents and changes to local licensing, both of which have the effect of limiting a previously vibrant night culture. Yet with the right social conscience and a desire by all parties to find compromise, areas can grow and adapt and people can live together - but this takes time, and tact from all sides.

Big city investors, motivated by profit, make this difficult to achieve. Now more than ever, the gay village needs the LGBTQ community and its allies to rally together to protect its historical and cultural value. Otherwise, in a few years' time, it may well be lost altogether.

And then there's the ongoing and decidedly ugly drama of protesters attempting to deny children their right to be taught about the basics of all types of family life, including the same-sex family. Once more we are called upon to defend our right simply 'to be'.

LOVE IS LOVE

So having just celebrated Pride month, and with Pride events being held all across the globe this summer, I will leave you with a final thought. Take a moment to pause if you stand in a position of privilege, and think about how you, your family and your friends can help those now in need of support. Like the champions of the Stonewall Riots, we each have a duty to those who live alongside us, who came before us and who will come after us, no matter what our inherent differences may be. Our community is a colourful one, so let's celebrate that and do what we can to hold back the re-rising tide of homophobia.

Love is love, and together we are all the stronger because of it.

CAN'T PASS IT ON
People on effective HIV treatment CANNOT pass on the virus
FACT
www.tht.org.uk
Terrence HIGGINS TRUST

LET'S TALK:
The Lacey Lou Column

Let's talk... Kings & Queens

Birmingham is blessed with an abundance of drag talent. Although our drag community is small by comparison with those of other cities, we are home to so many different types of drag artistry. All genders, ages and sexualities can be found performing in different ways and sending out different messages. It's fab! Now more than ever, we need to be nurturing and supporting the artform and its participants within our community, and ensuring that new talent continues to come through to help grow the scene.

So, here's a spotlight on some Midlands kings and queens you may or may not know. Get to know them, follow them, maybe go visit them!

CHRISTIAN GAY

"Growing up and being scared to be who I really was, it was so important to see my big brother, Matt, being unapologetically himself and not, what I knew at that time to be, stereotypically masculine.

"Matt essentially introduced me to gay culture. I remember reading about the events of Stonewall and coming across a masc-presenting entertainer called Stormé Delarverie. From this, I started to look up the icons that inspire me today, such as Spikey Van Dykey, Chiyo, Adam All, Romeo De La Cruz & Landon Cider.

"I started doing drag two years ago with a burlesque group in Leicester called The Vixens. I'd only intended to do the one performance with a partner, just to tick it off my bucket list. It was a movie-themed night and we did 50 Shades Of Grey. Since then, Christian Gay has stuck.

"I started doing more solo performances and gained a lot of self-confidence and enjoyment from it.

"About a year ago, I performed in Birmingham for the first time, in my first competition, at The Church of Yshee. After getting to the finals, I entered another competition called Midnight Mass, which opened a lot of doors for me, such as working with The Fox. My brothers - Dylan Doe, Victor Velvet (as the Haus of Sauseej) - and I pitched an event-concept to The Fox's owner, Andy. He was completely on board with it and helped us create our own event called Kings'n'Things."

FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM

@mr.christiangay and @kingsnthingsbham

CATCH ME HERE

12th July - Death at Bloodwig Manor - Eden Bar, Birmingham

19th July - Aunty Ginger's Old School Horror Show - Aatma, Manchester

CYCKI BROKAT

"You know how people say they feel they were 'born in the wrong generation'? I feel that too, but the opposite way - I was born 500 years too early.

"I'm fascinated by the future and the trajectory of human evolution. I have this image where everybody is in drag, and that's kinda what cycki is - the average citizen of the future

"I don't see drag as a limiting artform. I see myself going into un-queer spaces and showcasing my talents, most importantly my comedy.

"I think it's about time queer entertainers were given the same recognition as their straight counterparts, and not viewed as an 'alternative' artform. Our art is just as valid as theirs

"I want people to leave a cycki show questioning our society, what gender means and what makes us human. I want to present a positive vision of the future - one where everybody is a non-binary vegan!"

FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM

@cyckibrokat

CATCH ME HERE

Thursdays & Saturdays - The Nightingale, Birmingham

28th July - Church of Yshee - The Village, Birmingham

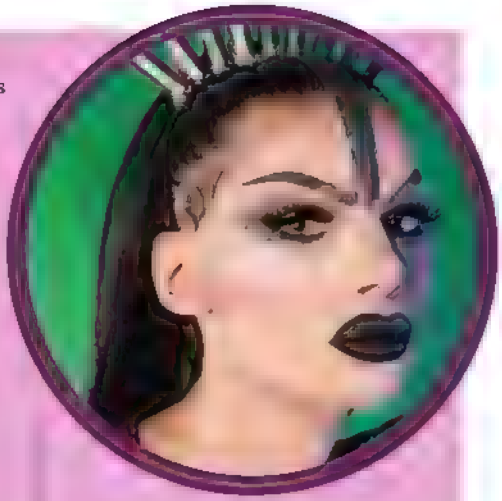
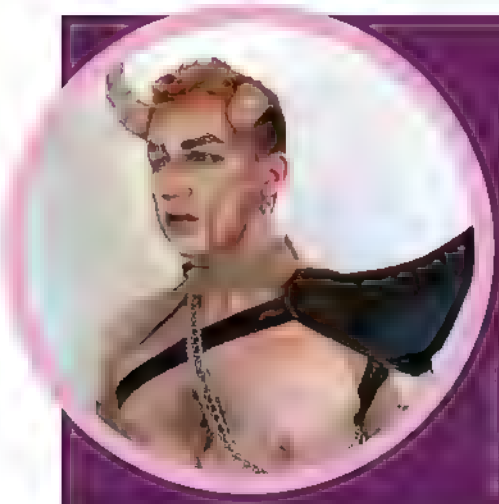


Photo credit: Laura Chen



BLU

"Blu is Birmingham's only Bio-King. I'm constantly inspired by '80s shoulder pads and graphic art, and I love '80s synth pop and New Romantics - the frontmen were pioneers of the queer identity, using femininity as power! The idea that men can be femme and be respected is, to this day, an almost alien concept because society is built on such misogynistic values.

"I want men to see that they can be camp, beautiful, glamorous, kind and Femme without feeling any less of a man. I also aim to cultivate kindness, and in a world where everyone seems to be competing, I try to lift up those around me, supporting and caring through the drag artform, and using kindness as the ultimate weapon in the fight against evil... or just Trump! Catch me every Sunday as a judge at the Church of Yshee. And remember - 'kindness is king'."

FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM

@thegabecapes

CATCH ME HERE

Sundays - Church of Yshee - The Village, Birmingham

LILITH

"I'm a death metal drag queen, emo superstar and Birmingham's favourite corpse. My drag is heavily influenced by the music and surrounding pop culture of emo, metal and punk, and I'm still heartbroken that MCR split up.

"Lilith is my reflection back at the world of my myspace teenage angst, and of the way in which music has shaped me as a person. If you've ever seen me perform, you know it's fun, energetic and involves a lot of 'that angry, shouty music'.

"Being one quarter of Birmingham collective Dragpunk, I've been able to perform all over the country and be part of creating unique events that highlight the alternative drag scene. We've been working on more theatre-based performance nights. My personal highlight so far was Drag Me To Hell last Halloween.

"My goal with Lilith is always to stay true to who I am and the drag I want to do, and to inspire others to do the same.

"I feel like, with the explosion of drag, there's now an expectation about what you have to wear and how you have to perform, but I want to destroy those perceptions and be an absolute rock star doing it. Support your local weirdos!"

FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM

@Liam_hallshelton and @Dragpunk

CATCH ME HERE

Thursdays & Saturdays - The Nightingale, Birmingham

12th July - Death at Bloodwig Manor - Eden Bar, Birmingham

14th July - Queer life drawing - The Loft, Birmingham

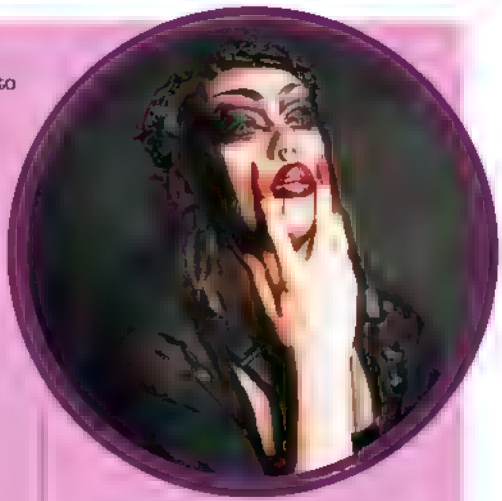


Photo credit: Aberration Obscura

DAHLIAH RIVERS

"I'd like to think of myself as Birmingham's youngest cougar.

"Most people will know me as the reigning winner of Midnight Mass.

"My main inspiration for doing drag came from watching pantomime dames (shock - not that TV show!) and being in awe of those larger-than-life characters who were having such a camp time on stage. The likes of Danny LaRue, Lily Savage and Dame Edna are all inspirations to me.

"It wasn't until I started going out on the scene that I built up the confidence to go out in drag. Meeting so many likeminded people really brings out the best in you. Being horrifically introverted my whole life, I've really struggled to build friendships with people, but through drag and expressing myself I've made some long-lasting bonds. Currently I'm part of a collective known as Mothers Meeting. You'll always find me at the Church of Yshee, and I'm one of the hosts for Second Self.

"I'm still finding my feet in terms of my performance style. Thankfully the venues have been so supportive particularly the lovely people at Missing, who've booked me a few times! Currently I'm in the process of writing my own one-woman show, which hopefully I'll try and take to the Edinburgh Fringe next year.

"But yeah, that's me, Birmingham's very own Broadway babe and low-budget Streisand impersonator signing out!"

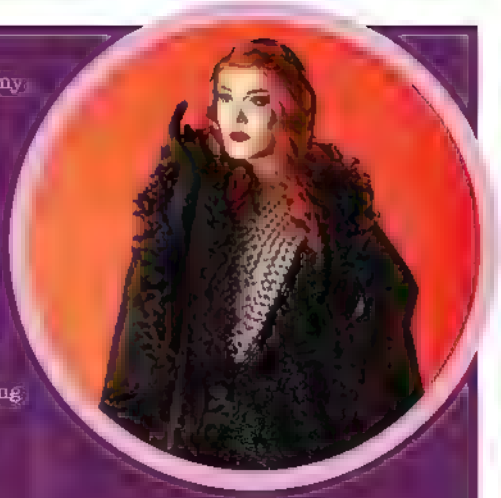


Photo credit: Laura Chee

FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM

@dahliahrivers and
@mothers_meetingbham

CATCH ME HERE

Sundays - Church of Yshee - The Village, Birmingham
31st August - Mothers Meeting - Bar Jester, Birmingham

These are just a few of the artists we have here in the Midlands!
Support your local drag scene!

NHS

MENS HEALTH

LEICESTER

Male only clinic sessions available
Find out more at:
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Free, private and confidential sexual health checks for gay & bisexual men, men who have sex with men and swingers*.

*

Day: Mondays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 29 New Bond Street, LE1 4RQ

Splash Spa & Leisure

Day: Tuesdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 61 Bedford Street, LE1 3JR

Amigos Leisure

Day: Thursdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 30 Bedford Street South, LE1 3JR

TRADE

Day: Fridays
Time: 12 - 2pm (last appointment 1.45pm)
Place: 2nd Floor, 27 Bowling Green Street, LE1 6AS

You can also check out Trade Sexual Health
www.tradesexualhealth.com

Goodbye,
farewell...

Ageing
with Pride

Birmingham LGBT's Ageing With Pride campaign comes to a close...

Ageing With Pride is waving goodbye - now its legacy is in *your* hands

You can't have missed it. For the past 12 months, the Birmingham LGBT led campaign has been advertised on the sides of buses, on massive billboards and in every issue of this very magazine!

But its time has come to an end, meaning that it's now down to our community to continue with the task of challenging ageism, confronting over-50s' isolation, and being inclusive of all LGBT people, regardless of age

Isolation is a significant factor in many over-50s' lives, and at every stage of Birmingham LGBT's campaign over the last 12 months, the community has been invited to reflect on that fact.

But even more so, the community has also been empowered to tackle the issue itself, via the creation both of scene and non-scene activities for people to take part in. These have included a tea party for older LGBTs at Birmingham Pride, the Gay Birmingham Remembered event - inviting community members old and new to share recollections of LGBT life in the past - and most recently a curated workshop which brought together younger and older members of the community to find out more about one another.

Commenting on the success of Ageing With Pride, its coordinator, Rico Johnson-Sinclair, said: "We are overjoyed with the positive response this 12-month campaign has received. From partnerships with organisations such as Proud Baggies - a West Bromwich Albion Football Club LGBT supporters group - to new friendships created here at Birmingham LGBT Centre, we can really see how successful Ageing With Pride has been. We now need the community to carry on the good work!

"There's so much more to do. Ageing With Pride has started the conversation; it now needs to be carried forward by members of the LGBTQ+ community here in Birmingham and the businesses that flourish here because of LGBTQ+ people. If you run a bar, ask yourself, is this place inclusive of older LGBTQ+ people? If you manage a community group, be concerned about those at risk of isolation within your group. If somebody goes off the radar for a while, call them! There's so much we can all do."

One of the ways Birmingham LGBT is continuing to champion inclusive services for older LGBT people is through its main 'older persons' programme, Ageing Better. Focusing on tackling isolation for those who are LGBT and over the age of 50, the programme makes resources available so that activities can exist within the community.

YOUR INVIVATION TO THE CLOSING PARTY ON 8 JULY

To help Birmingham LGBT wrap up the campaign in style, you are invited to a screening of a very special film created specially as part of Ageing with Pride, at the Mockingbird Cinema on July 8th. There will be a panel discussion featuring well known faces from the campaign, and a chance to socialise with fellow community members. Want to come?

Find out more at ageingwithpride.co.uk or email RicoJohnson@blgbt.org

Supporters of the Ageing With Pride campaign

Rico Johnson (left) with the Ageing With Pride team

Supporters of the Ageing With Pride campaign

SMOOTH FOR THE SUMMER

You've booked your flights and you're off to enjoy the sun in a matter of weeks. But wait, what about all this hair?! Well, if you're looking to get rid of that woolly jumper for the summer, check out our top tips on how to successfully and safely groom...

Getting it off your chest

If you're wanting to have a silky-smooth chest for your holidays this summer, step away from the razor! Experts recommend using hair-removal cream for getting rid of chest hair. Dissolving the hair at the root, this technique gives you a few weeks before regrowth, plus it won't grow back with a blunt, sharp edge, which can be itchy and irritable. For those with sensitive skin, waxing may be a preferred option.

Regardless of which full removal method you attempt (cream or wax), do it a few days before you jet off, to counter any possible redness, sensitivity to sun, or irritation.

Bye-bye back hair

It's best to trim your back hair with a body groomer, as the back is known for easily breaking out with a shave. Ask a partner to trim the hairs every week or two, without feeling pressure to keep it totally smooth. Or maybe you can manage this task on your own, if you're flexible enough. If you want rubber-ducky sleekness, then waxing and hair-removal creams are your best options.

Smoothing out the cracks

If you really need to remove hair from your ass, including everything in the crack, experts advise not shaving or trimming the hair. Until the hair grows out, friction between your cheeks can cause all kinds of irritation to the area. Your best option is to get waxed professionally - but only if you dare...

Pesky pubes

If you're wanting to be smooth 'down there', keep the razor well away. For pubes, hair-removal cream or a trimmer is best - although we must stress, do not put either on your junk! The skin in that area is thin and more harm can be done than good...

Use a more detailed head on your body groomer (even the nose hair trimmer works!) and trim each hair individually or in small, manageable tufts, pulling the skin taut with each pass. Again, do not touch the trimmer to the skin. You'll still get a smooth result, minus any nicks on your bits.

Take the weight off your shoulders

If you're looking to get rid of your shoulder hair, then avoid razors and use a body trimmer. The shoulders are susceptible to breakouts, given they spend the whole day under your shirt, accumulating sweat and never breathing. Take the trimmer down to its lowest setting and go against the grain with it (this is the opposite rule to shaving, but since you aren't breaking the surface of the skin, you don't run a risk of ingrown hairs). Shear it all off and repeat the task every few days or once a week.

And what about my limbs?

The skin on the arms and legs is a lot less irritable than the rest of your body. The hair is generally pretty thin, too. So, proceed as you please, with a trimmer, razor, hair-removal cream or even a wax.

And don't forget the aftercare...

[illegible] essential [illegible] smooth [illegible] days [illegible] antibacterial essential oils

DIVE IN

THE HOTTEST SWIMWEAR BRANDS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS SUMMER

PUMP!

This stylish men's designer underwear brand is known for its striking PUMP!-branded waistbands, beautiful fabrics, bold colours and expert tailoring.

Designed very much with gay interest in mind, PUMP! gives the fashion-forward man a stylish way to display his goodies. Available from Small to Extra Large, this sexy range is here to stay.

MODELS ARE WEARING PUMP! WATERSHORT SWIM SHORT £59.00 FROM BANDANDSTRIKE.COM

ADDICTED

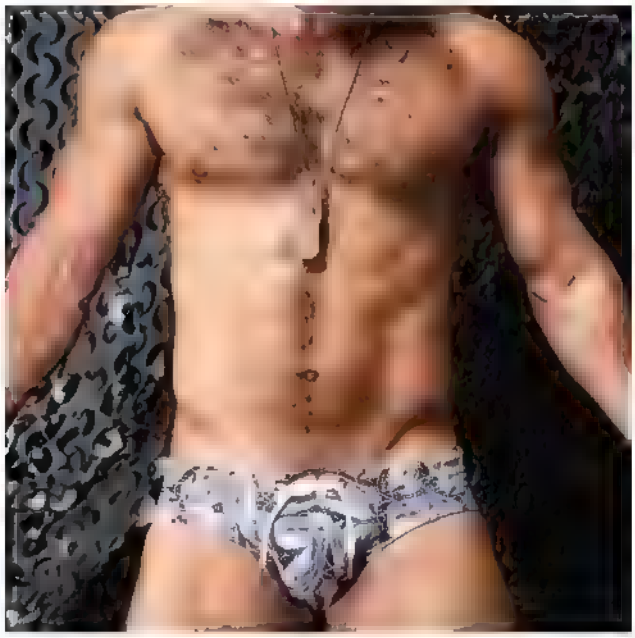
ADDICTED Barcelona is a world-renowned brand. Best Known by [illegible]

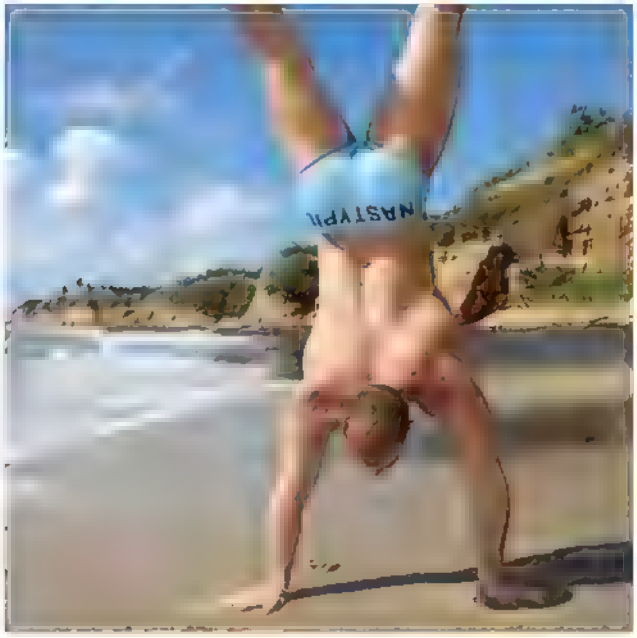
MODELS ARE WEARING ADDICTED SWIMWEAR RAINBOW S[illegible]
PRICED AT £42.99 AT CLONEZONEDIRECT.CO.UK

MODELS ARE WEARING ADDICTED SWIMWEAR BANANA COLLECTION
PRICES START FROM £34.99 AT CLONEZONED RECT CO UK

NASTYPIG

Nasty Pig was created *by* gay men *for* gay men in New York over 20 years ago. Its unique pieces are expertly made to appeal to those into clubwear, fetishwear and sportswear. Heavily influenced by hip-hop and gay culture, the brand creates sexy pieces with mass appeal.





LEFT TO R GHT NASTY PIG DOG TAG BIKIN PRICED AT £52 99 AND NASTY P G STEAM BIK NI AT £54 99 AT CLONEZONED RECT CO UK

ES COLLECTION
This iconic underwear brand is designed and made in
Barcelona tailored to perfection and created using
fabrics. the garments are the perfect option
who want to cover up when the sun's out but
looking sexy

JOE SNYDER
Joe Snyder men's underwear has it all, from dazzling metallics to teeny weeny thongs and exotically naughty briefs. There are matching tops too – mostly sexy tanks and vests – for those who want to cover up a little bit more at the beach.
The Joe Snyder Bikini ELA 15 underwear style pictured here, is not only great to look at but also has a super-fast dry quality, meaning it can be used for swimming too.

TOMBOYX

Founded by tomboy couple Fran and Naomi, who spotted a gap in the swimwear market, TomboyX set out to make swimwear in which anybody could feel comfortable, regardless of where they fell on the size or gender spectrum. The couple recently secured $18million of funding to continue developing the brand, so watch this space!

WIN! with Midlands Zone...

£75 Clone Zone voucher to update your summer swimwear!

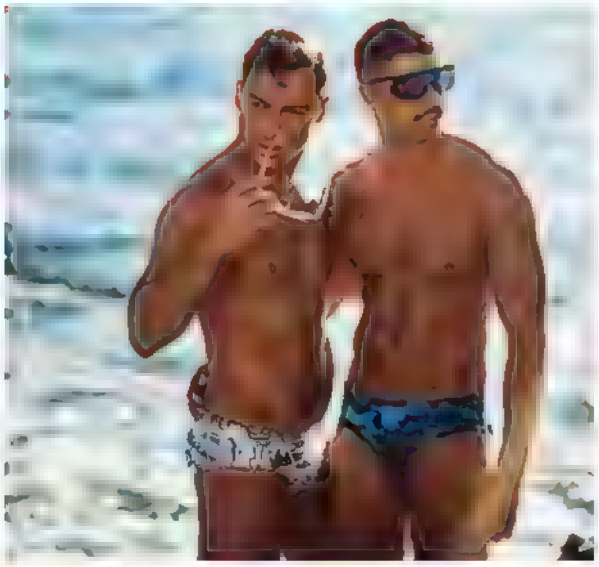
Is your summer swimwear bang on trend, or are your budgie smugglers a bit outdated or a little bit threadbare?

Hopefully our swimwear pages have inspired you to want to look the part on the beach in Sitges, Gran Canaria, Mykonos, Florida, or wherever this summer takes you.

To help you on your way, we've partnered with our friends at Clone Zone to provide one lucky reader with a £75 voucher to spend at the popular Birmingham store!

Clone Zone boasts a huge range of well known swimwear brands, so whether it's small & skimpy or large & bulging that you're after, you're sure to find something to please.

Check out the full range at clonezonedirect.co.uk



Enter the competition via our Facebook page at @midlandszone

JOB VACANCY

FEMALE GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

22 hours per week over 3 days
£21,420 pro rata

To carry out maintenance tasks and ensure the maintenance of BSWA's refuge accommodation and other sites is of a high standard and meets the requirements of safety legislation

Applicants must have a commitment to quality, equality and valuing diversity

BSWA

Birmingham & Solihull Women s Aid
Central Administration Ryland House
44-48 Bristol Street, Birmingham, B5 7AA

Closing date for Applications is Wednesday 10th July at 12noon

★★★★ "In the best satirical traditions of 'Spitting Image' & 'The Frost Report'" Musical Theatre Review

★★★★ "Pure rude, irreverent and very funny" Reviews Hub

★★★★ "A hilarious evening from a very talented cast" Sheffield Star

★★★★★ "Boris and his Johnson in full view" Now Then Magazine

★★★★ "Therapy for those sick and tired of politics North West End"

"Satire as it should be" Culturism

"Genuinely funny" Some random on twitter

Boris The Musical 2

BREXIT HARDER!

FROM ETON TO BREXIT IN SONG

3rd - 7th July

OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE

ARTRIX

VINTAGE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST

WWW.ARTRIX.CO.UK
BOX OFFICE: 01527 577330

Blue Orange Arts presents

MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN

17th - 20th July 2019

Orange Arts

www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
facebook.com/blueorangetheatre
Twitter: @blueorangethtr
118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B18 6AD

What's On

With her multi-platinum breakout album, Ingénue, k.d. lang emerged as one of the most singular and expressive singers of her generation. Now, 25 years later, she returns to her roots by performing the album in its entirety

Symphony Hall, Birmingham - Saturday 27 July

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Union J's Jaymi Hensley dons the technicolour dreamcoat for his first ever major musical role.
Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his 11 brothers and the coat of many colours, Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit show features a host of much loved songs, including Go, Go, Go Joseph and Any Dream Will Do

Birmingham Hippodrome - Tuesday 2 - Saturday 13 July

#DXP19 Drag Explosion

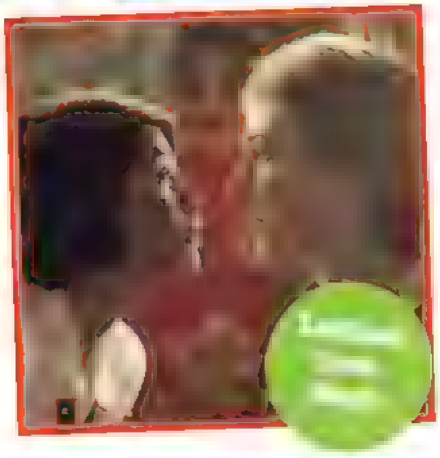
Hold on to your wigs! Some of the greatest RuPaul's Drag Race alumni are heading to the Midlands this month. Expect outrageous performances from Vanessa Vanjie, Brooke Lynn Hytes and Nina West, fresh from season 11. Morgan McMichaels, Meatball and Monique Heart will also be taking to the stage

02 Institute, Birmingham - Friday 26 July

Vita & Virginia

Starring Gemma Arterton and Elizabeth Debicki, Vita & Virginia tells the fascinating true story of the love affair between socialite and author Vita Sackville-West and literary icon Virginia Woolf in 1920s England

On general release Friday 5 July



God Save Our Queens

A date for your Christmas diary!

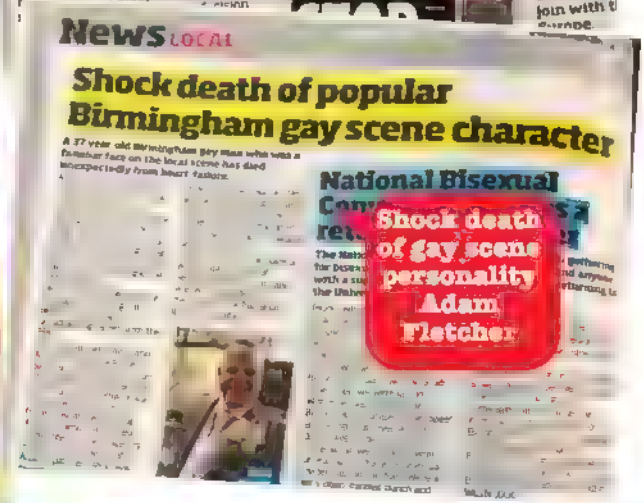
10 YEARS AGO

A look back at Midlands Zone from July 2009

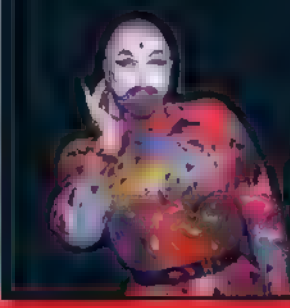
Picture Special from 2009

LOCAL News
Birmingham gay charity gets £31,000 Council funding boost
Brum Gay Village improvements put on hold
Delayed
Big funding boost for Birmingham LGBT

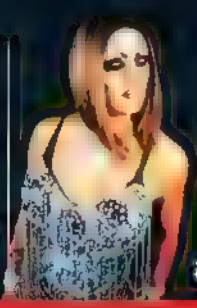
LOCAL News
Gay Village gets set for 5 Days of Fun in August
Come and join in Birmingham Gay Village for...
5 DAYS OF FUN!
5 DAYS OF FUN makes a comeback but not for long!



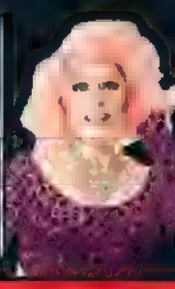
Scene
bears night on the move...
XXL in Birmingham moves from DV8 to the Nightingale. Since then, it's moved to its current home of The Core



DANNY BEARD is back at Eden Bar

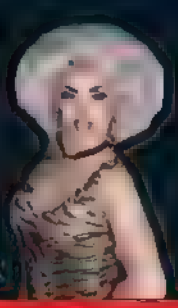


Party with MISS MARTY at The Yard



Cardiff queen MARY GOLDS heads to the Midlands

SHANIA PAIN is Still The One



SCENE

Your guide to the month ahead on the GAY SCENE

JULY 2019

DRAG QUEEN MURDER MYSTERY

Friday 12 July

at Eden Bar Birmingham

HAVANA ★ REPUBLIC

PRESENTS

Miss Penny's FABULOUS MONDAYS!

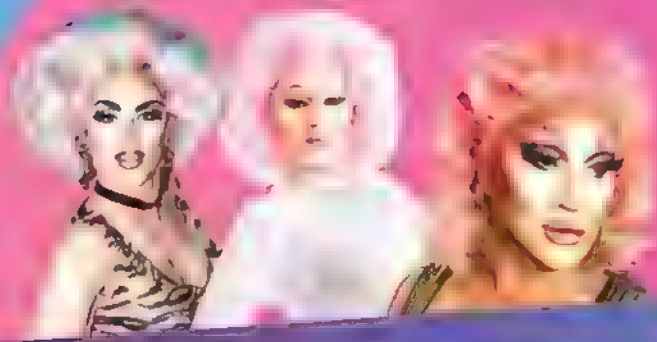
THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT OUT IN THE MIDLANDS

Special guest cabaret nights

SHANIA PAIN

MARY GOLDS

THE VIVIENNE



FREE ENTRY B4 12!

OPEN UNTIL 4AM!

BREAK EL DRINKS

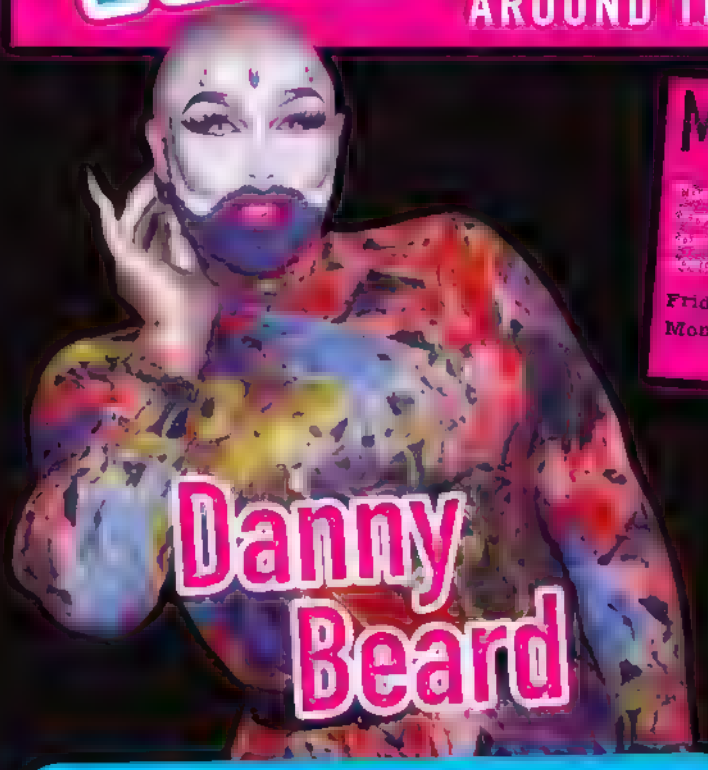
18 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AE // 01743 271821

What's On

The Vivienne

Mon 5 August, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

AROUND THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE



Danny Beard

Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard returns to Birmingham's award winning Eden Bar this month - and then returns again! Danny's certainly become one of the city's favourite drag acts in recent years, so if you still haven't caught up with him, make sure you head down to Eden this month.

Saturday 6 and Thursday 18 July, Eden Bar, Birmingham

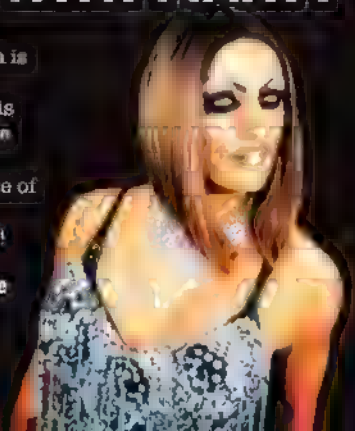
MARY GOLDS

Friday 12 July, The Yard, Coventry
Monday 15 July, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

PARTY WITH MARTY

Birmingham drag legend Marty Smith is heading back out around the Midlands this month. She'll be serving up her usual delightful dose of fun, games and naughty antics!

Friday 5 July, The Yard, Coventry



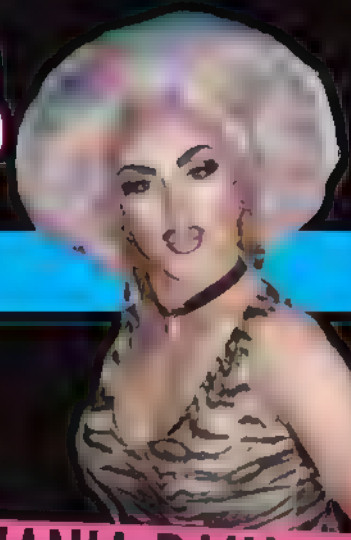
Lola Lasagne

Lola Lasagne is at two popular Midlands venues this month. Expect lots of laughter and fun, plus a good old-fashioned sing-song!

Friday 12 July
Village Inn, Birmingham

Friday 19 July,
The Yard, Coventry

What's On



Brenda LaBeau

Drag Race UK 2016 finalist Brenda LaBeau is known for her incredible live vocals. The Scouse songstress will surely bring the house down when she hits the stage at Eden Bar this month

Thursday 25 July
Eden Bar, B[illegible]

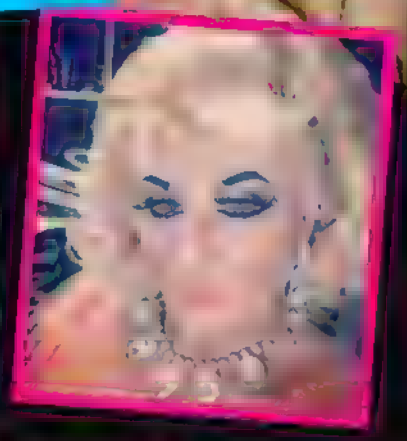
SHANIA PAIN

Monday 1 July, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury
Friday 19 July, Village Inn, Birmingham

KY Kelly

Friday nights see Birmingham's Village Inn presenting the very best in live cabaret. This month's fun is kickstarted in style by the not-to-be-missed KY Kelly.

Friday 5 July, Village Inn, Birmingham



Sandra London

The Whore of Hampstead Heath returns to the Midlands this month to get you in the party spirit!

Friday 26 July, Village Inn, Birmingham

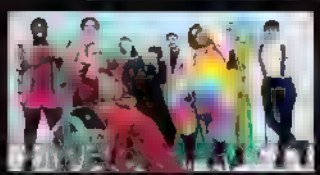
OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:

Fri 5 July
Jock Party Nightingale Club, Birmingham

Sat 6 July
Fetish UnCut Boltz, Birmingham

Sun 7 July
Taylor Marc The Three Furnaces, Telford
Dare2Bare Boltz, Birmingham

Fri 12 July
Queer Prom Nightingale Club, Birmingham - see feature on page 9.



Sat 13 July
Annabelle Lecter The Red Lion, Walsall

Sun 14 July
Miss Tish Ewe The Three Furnaces, Telford

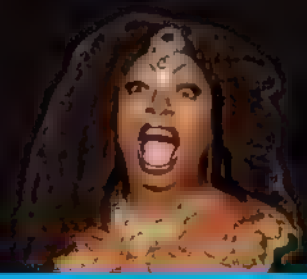
Tues 16 July
The Big Fat Summer Quiz Dover Castle, Leicester

Fri 19 July
MidsBears Eden Bar, Birmingham
XXL with DJ Paul Morrell The Core, Birmingham

Sun 21 July
The Raiders The Three Furnaces
Leather Social, Eden Bar

Tues 23 July
Fringe Comedy Night with Jen Brister & Maureen Younger Eden Bar, Birmingham

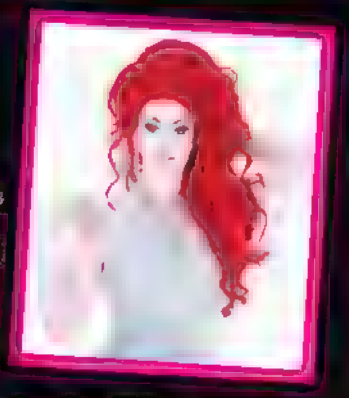
Fri 26 July
School's Out Disco The Crown Inn, Derby



Son of a Tutu

Friday 26 July
The Yard, Coventry

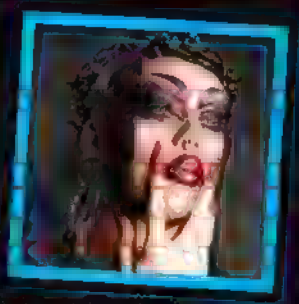
Divina De Campo



You may recognise Divina from The Voice UK and BBC's All Together Now. Expect a top evening of sass and song when she stops off at Eden this month.

Saturday 20 July, Eden Bar, Birmingham

Death at Bloodwig Manor: A Drag Queen Murder Mystery



A night of dark deeds, wigs and intrigue is in the offing as the Killer Queens present an interactive, immersive drag murder-mystery. Spot the clues, contemplate the evidence and solve the mystery of 'whodunnit'! Prizes for the winning team, runners-up and best dressed! Starring local performers Christian Gay, Dahlish Rivers, Dylan Doe, Freida Brest, Peaches Munroe, Paul Aleksandr Tacky Alex and Toby Ford.

Friday 12 July, Eden Bar, Birmingham

Sat 27 July

Martha D'Arthur The Red Lion, Walsall

Club Scritches Eden Bar, Birmingham
Touch My Brum Eden Bar, Birmingham

Sun 28 July

Dave Morris The Three Furnaces, Telford
Gameden Eden Bar, Birmingham

Email any events listings to editor@midlandszone.co.uk

WEEKLY DEALS

The Loft

MONDAYS
2 COCKTAILS £10
ANY 2 COCKTAILS £10 ALL NIGHT

TUESDAYS
3 SMALL PLATES £10
OR ANY 5 FOR £15

WEDNESDAYS
WINGS + DRINK £10
KILO OF WINGS + SELECTED DRINK

THURSDAYS
PIZZA + PINT £10
ANY PIZZA + PINT FOR £10

FRIDAYS
FIZZ + CHIPS £10
FRESH FISH + CHIPS WITH PROSECCO

SAT - SUN
BRUNCH
AVAILABLE FROM 10AM

SUNDAYS
SUNDAY ROAST
BEEF, CHICKEN, VEGGIE, CHEF'S CHOICE

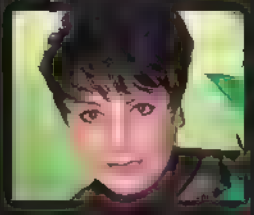
WWW THELOFTBRUM CO UK
THELOFTBRUM @THELOFTBRUM LOFT B RMINGHAM
143 BROMSGROVE STREET BIRMINGHAM - 0121 622 2444

GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

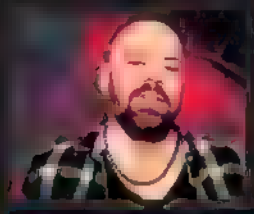
Birmingham

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

EVERY WEDNESDAY 8PM
Quizzical with DJ Yogi
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY
Karaoke & Disco with DJ Nikki



EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Toni Lee & DJ Fonz alternate weeks.



Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

THE LOFT
12 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

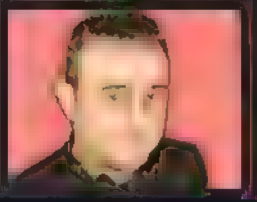
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH:
Queeny's Quiz

EVERY MONDAY
Monday Cocktail Club
2 for £10

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wing It Wednesday
Kilo of wings and drink £10

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

EVERY MONDAY UNTIL 4AM
Ministry of Pound with DJ Mike Emery



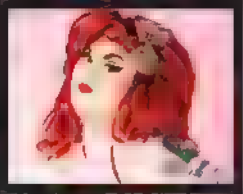
EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke with Gavina Vagina

EVERY THURSDAY 9PM
Thursdays with DJ Gavina
£1.50 bombs

EVERY FRIDAY 9PM
Hit Mix and Her with DJ Mike Emery
& Gavina Vagina

EVERY SATURDAY
Missing's House Party with DJ Matty, DJ Mike Emery and host Twiggy

EVERY SUNDAY 8.30pm & 10.30pm
Camp as f*ts with Amy LaQueefa and guest cabaret



NIGHTINGALE CLUB
Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

EVERY THURSDAY
Pounded! with £1 drinks all night

EVERY FRIDAY
Absolute Anthems with DJs Corey Hadley and Scott Hilton

EVERY SATURDAY
Nightingale Saturdays with free entry until 12pm

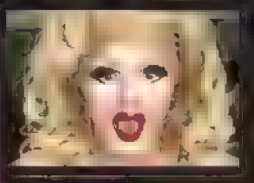
THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

EVERY MONDAY 9PM
Bingo with Queeny

EVERY TUESDAY
Pick n Mix with Ginny Lemon + Blanche

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Karaoke with Pork Pie

EVERY THURSDAY
Miss Marly + Miss Penny alternate weeks



EVERY SUNDAY
Yshee Black + special guests

PLUS THESE VENUES

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6606

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797

DEVILS KITCHEN
Kent St, B5 6NB

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

GLAMOROUS
27-35 Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 5912

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

SPARTAN HEALTH CLUB
127 George Road, B23 7SH
Tel: 0121 382 3345

UNIT 2
78 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 7070

Birmingham venues where you can pick up Midlands Zone

CANNOCK

CANDI CAINE'S CABARET LOUNGE
3 Church Street, WS11 1DE

COVENTRY

GLAMOROUS COVENTRY
88 Short St, CV1 2LX

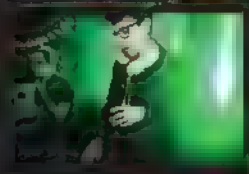
THE YARD
1 (1-2 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH)
Tel: 02475 012 959
theyardcoventry.co.uk
/TheYardCoventry

EVERY TUESDAY
Jelly Cube quiz night

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Open mic night hosted by Tom Barnwell

EVERY THURSDAY 8PM
Free Shot Karaoke with Jupiter & Minerva

EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Richard Alexander with Jupiter and Minerva



EVERY SUNDAY
Bingo, Play Your Cards Right and Deal or No Deal with weekly cash prizes of over £100

DUDLEY

BAR DIVA
76 Lower Plaza Mall, King Street, DY2 8NZ
/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

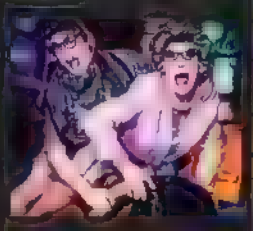
EVERY MONDAY
Manic Monday with Miss Annie

EVERY THURSDAY
Get Pounded Karaoke with Miss Annie

EVERY FRIDAY
Freaky Friday's with DJ Mikey

EVERY SATURDAY
Cabaret Saturdays with Miss Annie

EVERY SUNDAY
Ring & Ride with Mo & Margaret



SHREWSBURY

HAVANA REPUBLIC
18-21 Abbey Foregate, SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
havanarepublic.co.uk
/HavanaRepublic

EVERY MONDAY
Fabulous Mondays with Miss Penny and guest cabaret every 1st and 3rd Monday

THE PEACH TREE
18-21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
5 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 07399 664955

PINK
93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
5 Lower High St, DY8 1TE
Tel: 0138 444 2030

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley, TF7 4JB, 01952 58852

WALSALL

THE LION
Birchills St, WS2 8NG

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

THE GREENHOUSE
Willenhall Road, WS10 8JG
Tel: 0121 568 6126

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS
School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar

EVERY THURSDAY 1AM-6AM
#FreeEntryThursdays

EVERY FRIDAY 12AM-6AM
Fab Fridays

EVERY SATURDAY 12AM-6AM
The Breakfast Club

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row, WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

BOXED BAR & MUSIC VENUE
(Bossa @ Boxed) Gay every first Sunday of the month
110 Granby St, LE1 1DL

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE16PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

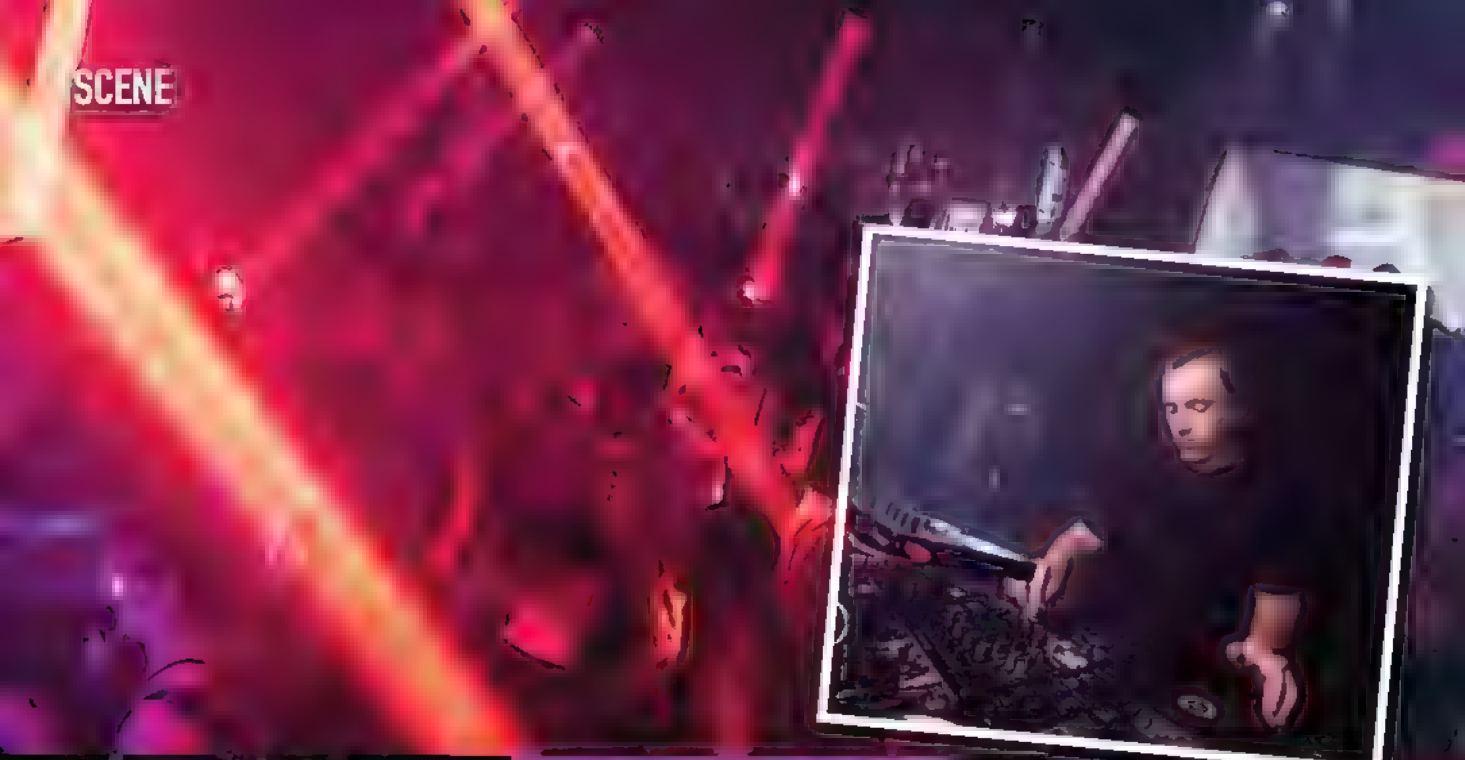
AMIGOS LEISURE
30 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 251 1955

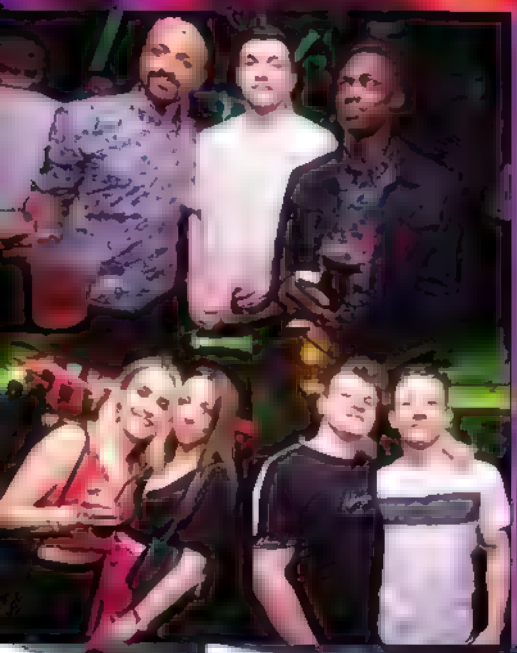
CLUB 29
29 New Bond St, LE1 4RQ
Tel: 0116 262 7770

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
61 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 367 3932

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St, NN1 2QF
Tel: 01604 604404



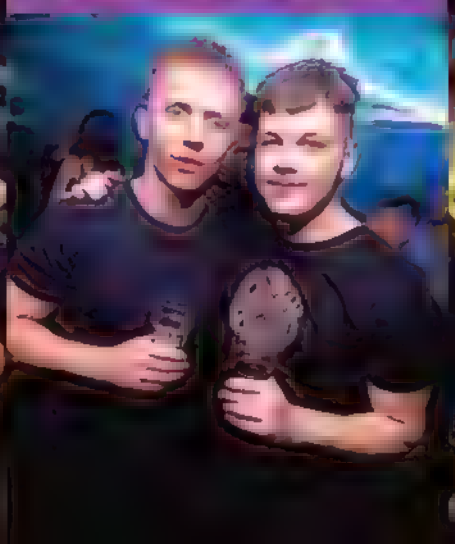


GORGEOUS
WOLVERHAMPTON

Gorgeous Breakfast Club on Saturdays is one of Wolverhampton's busiest club nights. And with free entry and 'buy one get one free' drinks until 1am, that's hardly surprising!

The club also has Free Entry Thursdays until 6am and Fab Fridays, with DJ James Levett playing dance classics, house and R'n'B.

Meanwhile, Gorgeous are sponsoring a new night Candy Floss at The Prince Albert which launches on Friday 5 July! See opposite



FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY & ALLIES

Candy Floss

SOURZ SHOTS £1 ALL NIGHT

LAUNCHING

FRIDAY 5TH JULY 2019 / 7PM - 3AM

THEN EVERY FRIDAY

AT THE PRINCE ALBERT

IN THE BAR

DJ MATTY B

SPINNING CHART FAVOURITES & CAMP ANTHEMS

ON THE TERRACE

ANETT CURTAIN

SPINNING [illegible] WE'RE NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE?!

FREE ENTRY B4 10PM / £2 BEFORE 12AM / £3 AFTER

The Prince Albert, Railway Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1LG

www.princealbertwolverhampton.co.uk f

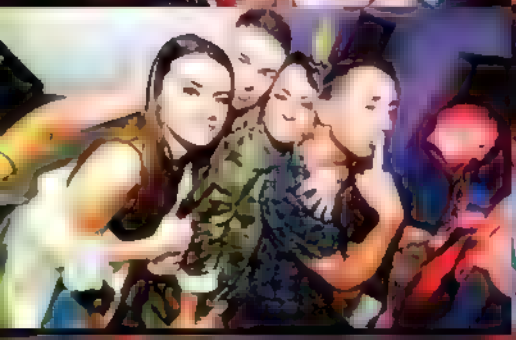
Sponsored by Gorgeous Nightclub gorgeous

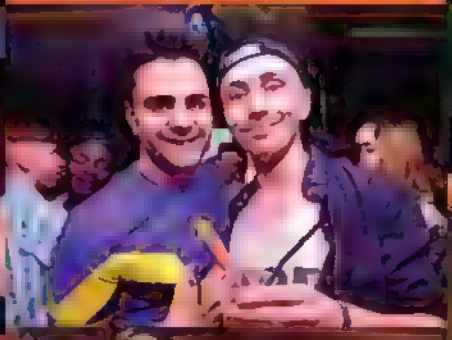
VILLAGE INN

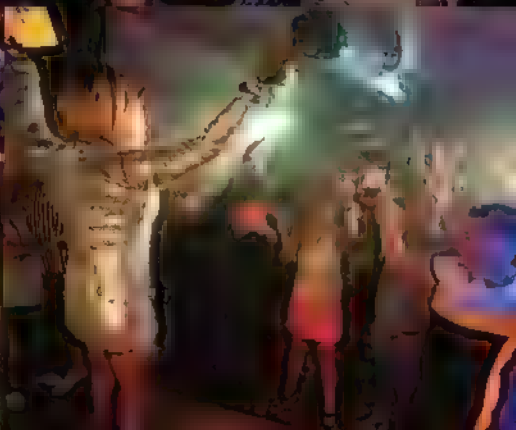
BIRMINGHAM

The Village Inn is always a guaranteed fab evening out – open seven nights a week, there really is something for everyone!

This month sees drag artists Ky Kelly, Lola Lasagne, Shania Pain and Sandra London taking to the stage (see advert opposite for details)







MidlandsZone.co.

FRI 12TH JULY

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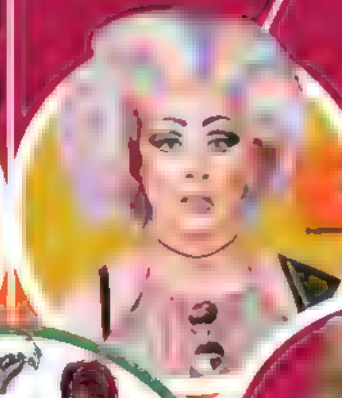
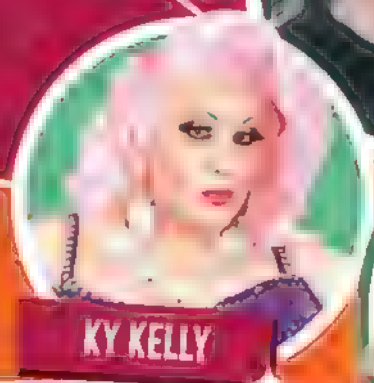


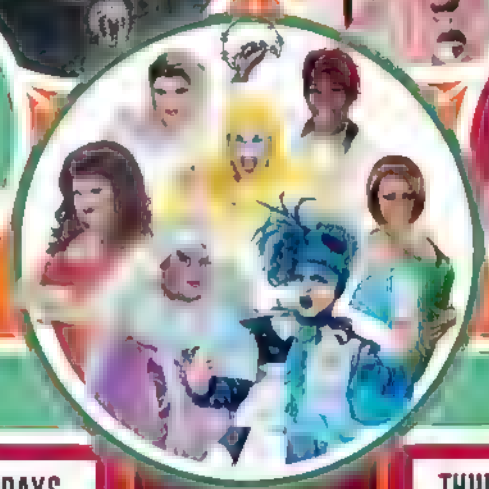
FRI 19TH JULY

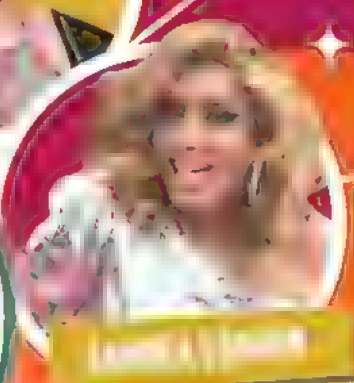
SHANIA PAIN



KY KELLY

FRI 5TH JULY





[illegible]

FRI 26TH JULY

MONDAYS

QUEENY'S BINGO
GUARANTEED
£120
WEEKLY

THE VILLAGE INN'S
L8R MONDAYS
£1 DRINKS
OPEN TO 4AM

TUESDAYS

GINNY
LEMON'S
PICK 'N' MIX
WEEKLY
CASH PRIZES

DJ BLANCHE

WEDNESDAYS

KARAOKE
WITH
PORKPIE

THURSDAYS

CABARET
WITH
MISS MARTY
& MISS PENNY
ALTERNATE
WEEKS

SUNDAYS

THE CHURCH OF
YSHEE
LIP SYNC
COMPETITION

OPEN TIL LATE
XOXO

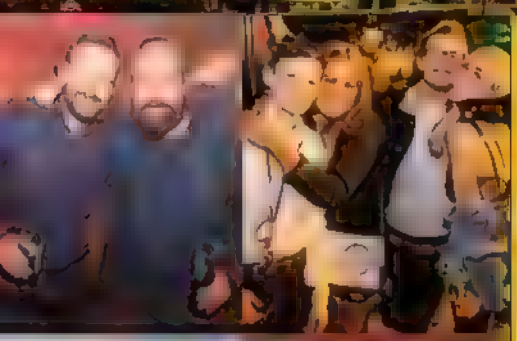
VILLAGE INN BIRMINGHAM

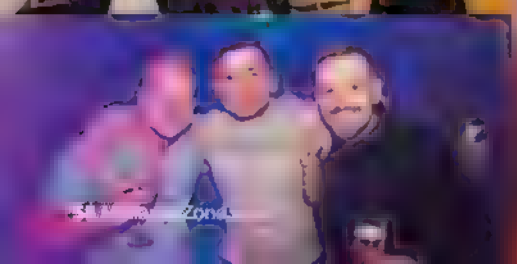
[illegible]

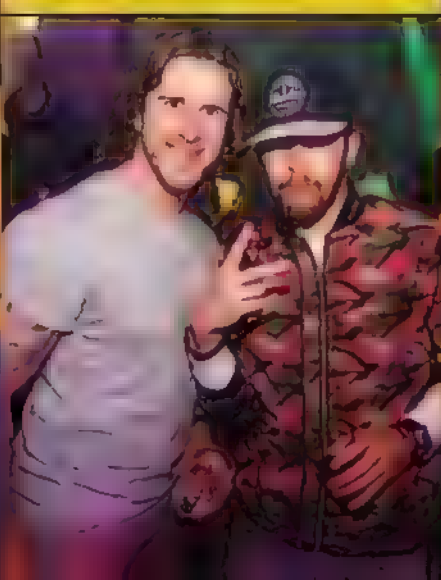
THE YARD

The Yard in Coventry's city centre hosted some amazing Coventry Pride celebrations last month (check page 17 for pictures).

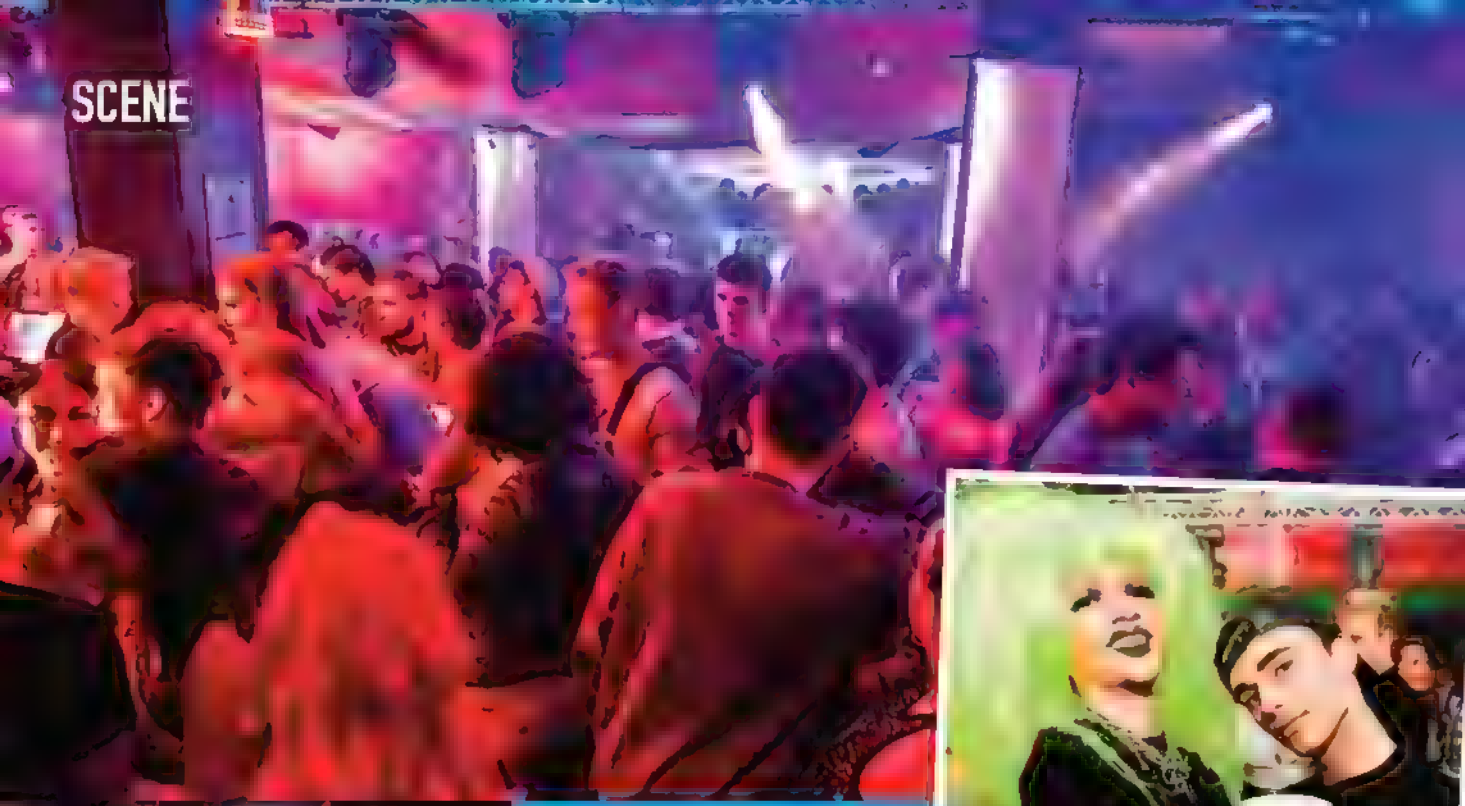
July sees Miss Marty, Mary Goulds, Lola Lasagne and Son Of A Tutu visiting the venue on a Friday, and popular Brum DJ Simon Baker heads up the venue's @Identity every Saturday until 4am! (check the advert opposite for performance dates).

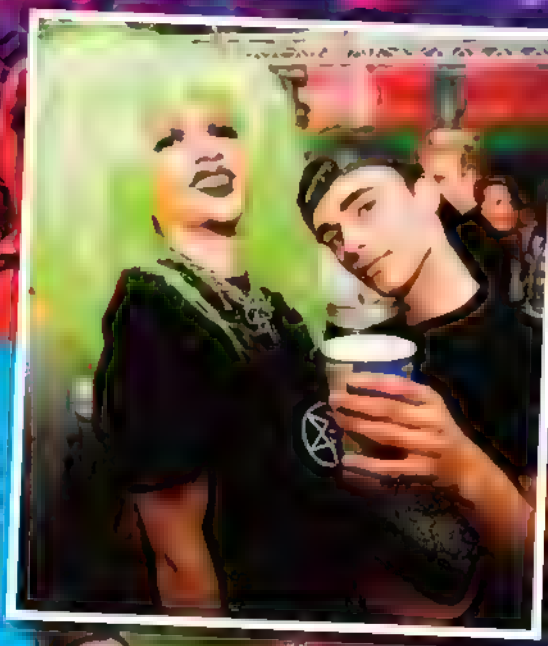


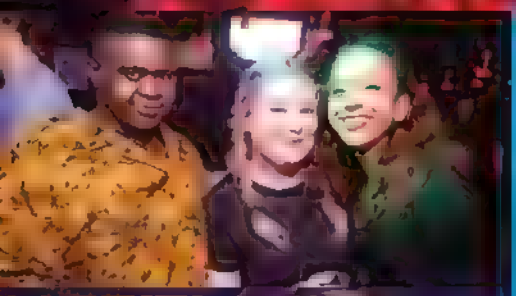




Jules
@ THE YARD
TUESDAY - QUIZ NIGHT
WEDNESDAY - OPEN MIC NIGHT
THURSDAY - FREE SHOT KARAOKE
SUNDAY - GAMES NIGHT
MISS MARTY
FRIDAY 5 JULY
MARY GOLDS
FRIDAY 12 JULY
LOLA LASAGNE
FRIDAY 19 JULY
SON OF A TUTU
FRIDAY 26 JULY
@IDENTITY
the yard
The Yard, 11-12 Bull Yard, Coventry, CV1 1LH
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk 024 7501 2959







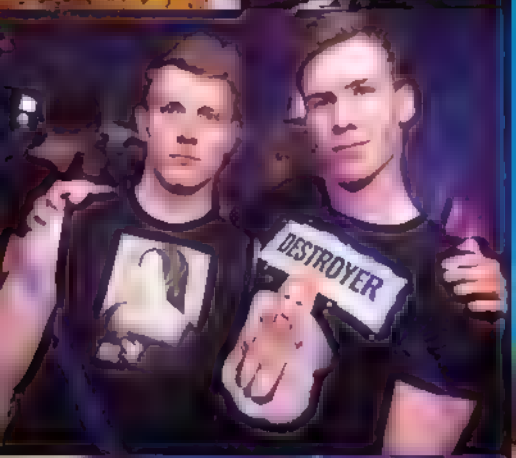
THE NIGHTINGALE

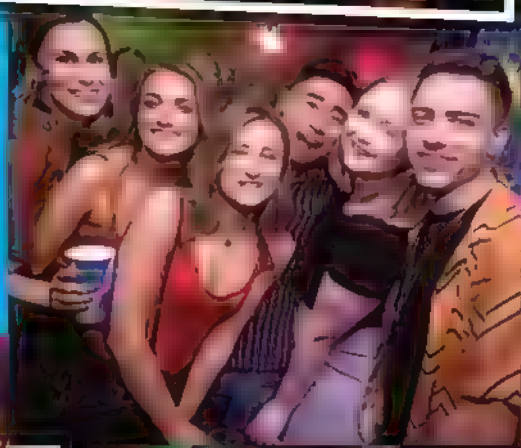
BIRMINGHAM

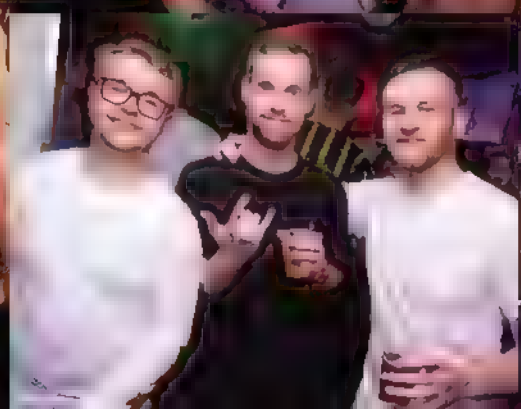
Birmingham's biggest gay club, The Nightingale, was regularly jampacked last month, as you can see from our photos!

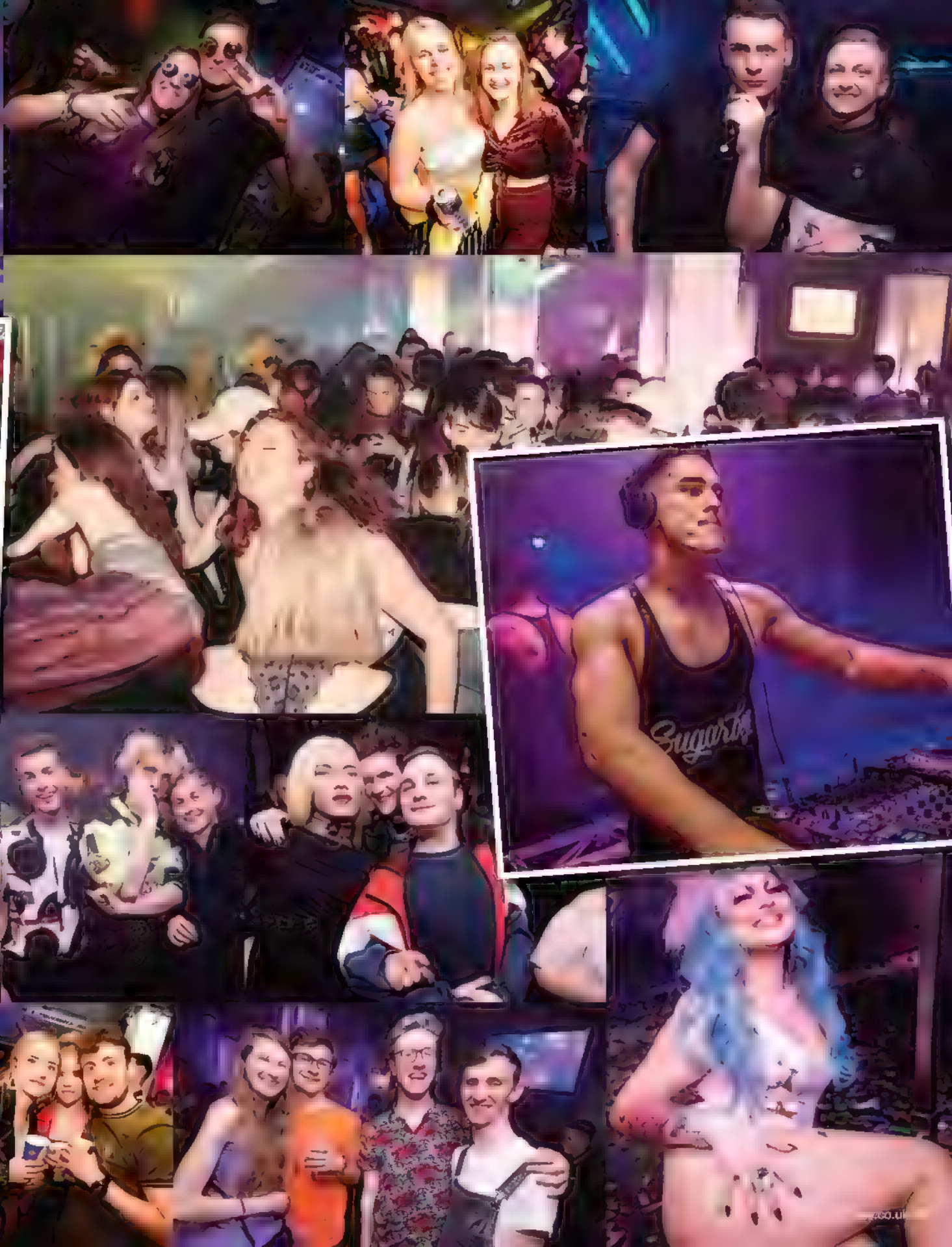
The iconic venue is this year celebrating its 50th anniversary with great drinks offers, free entry* and absolute anthems.

(*Check the back cover for more details)







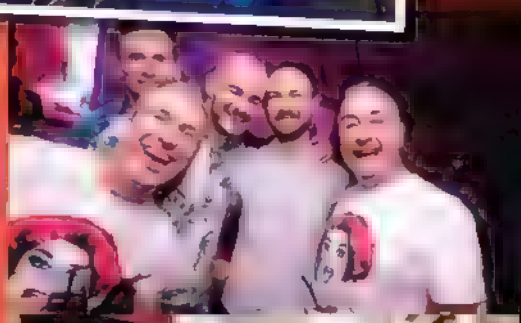

Sugarbo

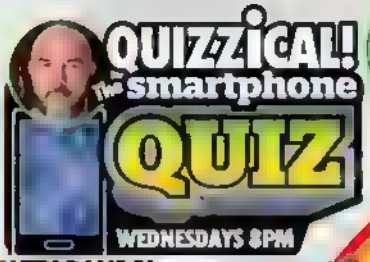
EDEN BAR

BIRMINGHAM

Eden was filled to the brim on Drag Idol semi-final night, with the wonderful Danny Beard acting as host.

This month, the venue is hosting drag murder-mystery night Killer Queens in its marquee (Fri the 12th), and there'll be guest performances from, among others, Divina De Campo and Brenda La Beau (see advert opposite for more details).





JULY

SAT 6TH **DANNY BEARD**

FRI 12TH **KILLER QUEENS** TICKET EVENT
A DRAG QUEEN MURDER MYSTERY

SAT 13TH **CHARLIE HIDES**

THU 18TH **DANNY BEARD**

FRI 19TH **MIDS BEARS**

SAT 20TH **DIVINA DE CAMPO**

SUN 21ST **LEATHER SOCIAL**

TUE 23RD **FRINGE COMEDY PREVIEWS** TICKET EVENT
JEN BRISTER & MAUREEN YOUNGER

THU 25TH **BRENDA LABEAU**

FRI 26TH **TOUCH MY BRUM**
TEAM REGISTRATION NIGHT

SAT 27TH **CLUB SCRITCHES**
PUP SOCIAL ON SAT AFTERNOON

SAT 27TH **TOUCH MY BRUM - MARY MAC**
AFTER GAMES EVENT HOSTED BY MARY MAC

SUN 28TH **GAMEDEN**
AFTERNOON BOARDGAMES

DJ TONI LEE
SAT 6TH SAT 20TH

DJ PONI
SAT 13TH, 27TH

eden

Open from 2pm Mon-Fri 2pm Sat & Sun | 116Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | 01216221953 | www.TheEdenBar.co.uk

BAR DIVA

DUDLEY

Irish eyes were surely smiling when Sky'anne O'Shea took to the stage at Bar Diva in June. Sky'anne was just one of the fabulous drag performers who last month brought the house down at the popular Dudley venue.

This month sees all the usual fabulous fun and frolics taking place, with cabaret each Saturday night and karaoke every Monday night – with £100 to be won! Check the advert opposite for more details.

BAR DIVA!

JULY

THURSDAYS — THURSTY THURSDAYS
WITH MISS ANNIE & TRIXIE LEE

FRIDAYS — FREAKY FRIDAYS
WITH DJ MIKEY

SATURDAYS — CABARET SATURDAYS
HOSTED BY MISS ANNIE
PLUS TOP DRAGS

SUNDAYS — SIZZLING SUNDAYS
WITH MISS MO BILITY AND MARGARET

MONDAYS — £100 TO BE WON
KARAOKE COMPETITION
BOGOF
FUN, GAMES AND PRIZES

BAR DIVA
Lower Plaza Mall King Street DY2 8NZ Dudley

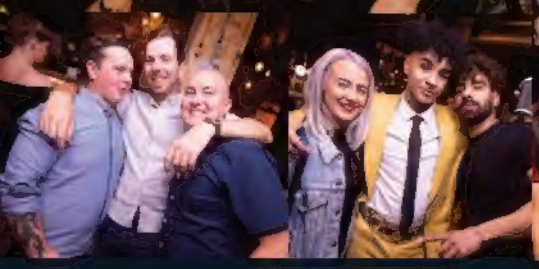
ZONE AWARD WINNER

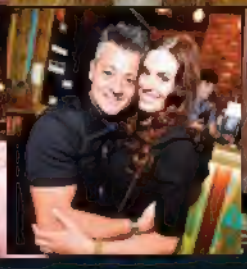
/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

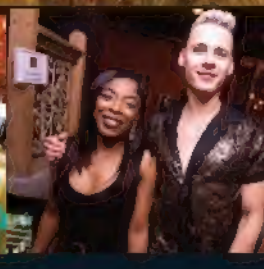
THE LOFT

BIRMINGHAM

With craft beers, contemporary cocktails, a locally sourced food menu, speciality gins and a fully heated garden in the heart of Birmingham, what's not to love about The Loft!







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THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

THURSDAYS

£1 DRINKS

2 FLOORS OF MUSIC

FREE ENTRY TILL 11PM

FRIDAYS

£2 DRINKS

ABSOLUTE ANTHEMS

FREE ENTRY TILL 12AM

SATURDAYS

CHEAP DRINKS

3 FLOORS OF MUSIC

FREE ENTRY TILL 12AM

XOXO